SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 47
SHOPPERS DRUG MART

HAPPY IN THEIR OWN WAY

TOLSTOY'S ANNA KARENINA, BROUGHT TO LIFE BY THESE TWO STARS, IS ONE OF OUR TOP 10 FILMS TO SEE AT TIFF PAGE 42

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CYCLES OF THE MOON

Performers perfect their routines during rehearsal for the new Cirque du soleil extravaganza, Amaluna, now playing at the Grand Chapiteau in the Port Lands. Directed by Diane Paulus, "Amaluna invites the audience to a mysterious island governed by goddesses and guided by the cycles of the moon." Story, page 37. CONTRIBUTED

After a 4-hour grilling, Ford holds ground

Hearing to end Friday.
Mayor maintains he does not recall ever learning about conflicts of interest

At the end of four gruelling hours on the stand, Mayor Rob Ford denied repeatedly lying under oath to save his political skin.

Lawyer Clayton Ruby, his voice rising Wednesday in a cavernous University Avenue courtroom, called Toronto's mayor a chronic liar who is clinging to an odd but legally advantageous interpretation of conflict of interest.

"To have a conflict of interest," the mayor told court in a by-then-familiar refrain, "you have to have two parties involved and the city has to benefit, and a member of council has to benefit."

Ford suggested that, contrary to what is spelled out in the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, and a handbook that he was handed four times but said he has never seen, there can be no conflict if the member of council alone stood to benefit financially from a council vote.

"I'm suggesting to you that you never believed that," Ruby fired back, citing the February council vote where Ford passionately urged councillors to quash a previous order that he repay $3,150 in donations to his private football charity, and then voted with them to let himself off the hook.

Ruby portrayed the vote as another instance of rule breaking by an "angry and defiant" politician.

"You (were) just fed up with the repeated condemnation of your actions by another integrity commissioner, and you thought you could stonewall it and convince council, as a newly elected, popular mayor, to reverse it — and that is why you spoke."

"That's not true," snapped back an exhausted-looking Ford. "Not true!"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FORD SAYS HE'S RAISED ABOUT $100K FOR DESERVING CHILDREN, BUT RUBY CHALLENGES THAT CLAIM: PG. 4

Private eyes' risky business

Couple accused of fraudulent investigative work arrested in the Caribbean PAGE 6

A plea for calm after shooting

Quebec's premier-in-waiting says her province should not be associated with violence PAGE 12

Kadri's new Leafs on life

Can't-miss prospect is preparing for his fourth NHL camp — if it happens PAGE 64

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Dancing in the Blue Alley

Award-winning dance troupes joined acro-contortionists and other eye-dropping sexy displays at the "Blue Alley," the official-unofficial TIFF festival kickoff party on Wednesday night in the club zone. SKYY Vodka's Official TIFF Cocktails did not stay long on servers' trays, part-goes said. CENTRAL IMAGE AGENCY

Danzig shooting victim shot again

Three arrests. Sunday incident has multiple connections to July mass shooting

A 17-year-old Toronto youth wounded in the July mass shooting on Danzig Street was shot again Sunday while riding a bicycle near his Scarborough home.

Police have charged a 16-year-old with attempted murder after arresting two teens at a home on Danzig Street earlier this week. Both face multiple gun and drug-related charges.

Torstar News Service has learned that the 16-year-old alleged shooter has connections to one of the men charged after the Danzig block party — an event that ended with the worst mass shooting in Toronto's history, leaving two dead and 23 others with bullet wounds.

A source confirmed the connections between the Sunday shooting and the July 16 mass shooting on Danzig Street as police released information about the charges Wednesday.

The investigation led police to execute a search warrant Tuesday morning at 105 Danzig St. — the home where the July 16 community barbecue got started. Shannon Longshaw, who lived in the unit at 105 Danzig St. when the mass shooting took place and identified herself as the organizer of the block party, does not appear to be living there now, according to neighbours.

A 16-year-old boy was arrested and faces 14 charges, including attempted murder and possession of cocaine for the purpose of selling. The boy has connections to 19-year-old Nahom Tsegazab, who was charged with reckless discharge of a firearm three days after the Danzig Street shooting and was also a gunshot victim that night.

The alleged shooter and victim cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Avian Gooden, 18, was arrested at the Danzig house Tuesday and faces six charges, including possession of cocaine for the purpose of selling, unauthorized firearm possession and probation violations.

The 17-year-old shooting victim was also arrested after police executed a search warrant at a home on Chester Le Boulevard and seized cocaine. He faces four drug-related charges.

The three teens were scheduled to appear in court Wednesday. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Sunday's shooting

Police said a 17-year-old was riding his bicycle along Chester Le Boulevard when a 16-year-old approached and shot him in the leg. The gun then malfunctioned, police said, giving the victim a chance to escape.

- The injured teen ran home with a gunshot wound in his upper-left thigh. His mother drove him to a local hospital, where he received treatment for serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

Brampton

City staff blasted over secrecy

Brampton councillors took turns chastising senior city staff Wednesday for routinely keeping councillors in the dark and "failing to report" on important issues that are supposed to be council business.

"It seems more and more we're not getting reports back, we're not knowing what's happening," said Paul Palleschi, the councillor who added the issue of "delegation of authority" to the agenda for Wednesday's council meeting. He pointed to several specific real estate, land purchase and other issues that have been handed over to bureaucrats to handle over the years.

Councillors said they were dumbfounded to find out through the press recently that the province's information and privacy commissioner, after a long investigation they knew nothing about, had ordered the city to release details of Brampton's downtown redevelopment after staff refused to disclose information even to council about its cost and square footage. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Lake Ontario

Human torso found in suitcase

A suitcase containing human remains was found Wednesday floating in Lake Ontario near Bluffer's Park.

A badly decomposed torso was found inside, Toronto police confirmed.

Boaters located the suitcase around 11 a.m. and called police after towing it to shore. They were approximately 2.5 kilometres from shore when they made the sighting, police said.

Homicide Det. Leslie Dunkley said it's not yet known whether the torso belonged to a man or woman, or whether it could be connected to the multiple body parts discovered in the death of Guang Hua Liu. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

1 NEWS

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How much football money did Ford's foundation really raise?

Mayor Rob Ford tries to outrun the media back to city hall on Wednesday, the first day of his conflict-of-interest case.
BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Day in court. Lawyer Clayton Ruby grills the mayor on his claim that the foundation raised and gave out $100,000

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

On a video screen in the courtroom at Rob Ford's conflict-of-interest case Wednesday, the mayor delivered an impassioned speech to his fellow councillors recorded on Feb. 7 about the good his football foundation has done for kids.

"There are so many stories about these kids that came out of these football programs that bring tears to your eyes. They get an education, they stay in school, the scholarships, they're playing professional football now. If it wasn't for this foundation these kids would not have had a chance," Ford said. "I've fundraised probably close to $100,000 over the past few years."

Lawyer Clayton Ruby later grilled Ford on his claim that the foundation had fundraised and given out $100,000 — a claim that he also put on his 2010 campaign website. It remained on the site until the early stages of the legal case got underway this summer, according to testimony.

The Rob Ford Football Foundation isn't a registered charity on its own, but a fund run by the Toronto Community Foundation, which administers hundreds of charitable funds in the city. Ruby questioned Ford about the Toronto Community Foundation reporting that the Rob Ford Football foundation had raised only $37,294 as of June 30, 2010.

"I don't think she took into consideration my personal contribution, which is close to $50,000," he said. "My foundation alone maybe wouldn't be $100,000, but my own personal money, on top of what I fundraised, and up to date, would probably be over $100,000. Probably at the time I hadn't fundraised $100,000, but I put in my own money."

For example, he pays for the Don Bosco Eagles' junior and senior football teams' equipment himself, he said.

Under questioning from Ruby, Ford repeatedly said he's unsure how much he's raised for the foundation over the years.

"With all the money I fundraised and personally contributed to high school football over 17 years, I guarantee it's over $100,000, easy," said Ford.

Ruby said Ford gave a different explanation for the discrepancy when Ruby questioned him during a deposition in June about the $100,000 claim.

"That is inaccurate. I was probably saying it would be that much. It could total that much. It could in five or six, the years to come, I could easily fundraise that much money for it," Ford said at the time.

Quoted

"With all the money I fundraised and personally contributed to high school football over 17 years, I guarantee it's over $100,000, easy."
Mayor Rob Ford

Lawyer expects mayor to remain in office

Rob Ford will likely keep his job as mayor because the money at issue in his conflict-of-interest case just isn't that much for a man of his means, according to a prominent lawyer.

In order for Ford to have violated the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, the money involved has to be enough that it can "reasonably be regarded as likely to influence the member," according to James Morton, an Osgoode Hall Law School professor at York University and past president of the Ontario Bar Association.

"When you look at this man and you look at the kind of money he deals with in business, things like that, I would say probably the dollar amount is immaterial," he said.

The money at issue in the mayor's case is $3,150 donated to the Rob Ford Football Foundation, which the city's integrity commissioner and lobbyist registrar identified as coming from people who were lobbying the city or their employers.

The conflict-of-interest allegation stems from Ford's decision to vote to overturn a motion that demanded he repay the money.

Ford is a principal owner of a successful family business, Deco Labels & Tags.

Exactly how much money is material to the law depends on the person, says Morton. For example, Morton says he just attended a bail hearing where $200 was a hugely significant amount of money for someone who didn't really have any money at all.

"Basically, I just don't think this is going to succeed. Now, I'm not a fan of Mayor Ford, but that doesn't make a difference. I just don't think at the end of the day that he'll be removed from office," Morton said.

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

James Morton CONTRIBUTED

Disciplinary hearing

Pediatrician failed to alert female patients, panel told

A pediatrician accused of inappropriately touching a patient failed to post a sign in his office alerting female patients that a nurse or parent must be present during exams, a disciplinary panel heard.

Dr. Eleazar Noriega is accused of professional misconduct for failing to comply with restrictions on his licence. He agreed to the restrictions in 2009 when the College of Physicians and Surgeons was probing an allegation he had fondled a 15-year-old patient 31 years earlier.

Noriega's lawyer told the panel that Noriega had posted a notice to female patients, but it kept being ripped down.

A disciplinary committee last year found him guilty of professional misconduct but he appealed and the divisional court ruled in his favour, ordering a new hearing.

The panel reserved its decision. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Conflict-of-interest-case. Ford supporter reluctant to spill details of charity event

Hal Spradling and his company held a fundraiser to help the Rob Ford Football Foundation buy some football uniforms for children — but all the controversy surrounding the mayor's legal case has him a little wary.

"I don't want to say anything that could come out in the wrong fashion, because I know there's a trial today and a lot of people seem to be jealous of the mayor or trying to go after him on different fronts," he said Wednesday.

But Spradling said the football foundation is a good cause, and he agrees with the mayor that helping children play football can help save lives by keeping them on the right track.

"We did it because we think it's a good thing, a good thing to help young people," Spradling said about the fundraiser he held with his company at the Cherry Street Restaurant on July 18.

Spradling said he'd read about the foundation and wanted to help.

"It was a donation affair which the mayor may or may not have attended," he said. "We were trying to raise money for the organization and we had food and wine and beer and cigars."

But the company's website clearly shows that Ford attended the event and posed for photos with the attendees.

"He's very dedicated and his very unselfish motivation is to help young people," said Spradling. "The foundation has a history of helping young people in troubled areas."

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

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Boutique has its own Notion of style

Model Tijana Bennett wears one of Notion's new creations to publicize the upcoming launch of Notion Style, a new fashion boutique at 3333 Yonge St. The brand distinguishes itself by the use of French lace, velvet, silk and other organic fabrics. Toronto founder, artist and designer Bisa Bennett will celebrate the official opening on Sept. 15. GORAN PETKOVSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Island-hopping private eyes nabbed in Turks and Caicos

Fraud charges. Former Toronto cop and his wife on run for three years await hearing for allegedly defrauding business clients

Cullen Johnson, a former Toronto cop, and his wife Elaine White at the Newmarket courthouse in 2009. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Two Canadian private eyes accused of defrauding divorce and business clients have been nabbed by police in the Caribbean where they have been island-hopping for three years.

Cullen Johnson is a former aide to a Toronto police chief. Elaine White, his wife and partner in alleged crime, once worked for forensic accountants in Toronto. They are in a Turks and Caicos jail awaiting a hearing Friday.

A Torstar News Service investigation in 2009 exposed an unusual scheme: Both were accused by former clients (and later the police) of forging and selling bank records that made clients believe an ex-spouse, friend or employee had millions of dollars stashed offshore.

One case involved a group of lottery-winning friends led to believe one of their group swindled the others.

Shortly after the pair pleaded not guilty to fraud charges in Newmarket court in December 2009, they flew south and set up shop in the Bahamas, calling their new private-eye company Internal Affairs Global, boasting a crack investigation squad that could pierce any banking veil.

On Wednesday, immigration agents in the Turks and Caicos arrested Johnson, 64, and White, 69. Police in Ontario say the pair had overstayed their Turks' visa. A routine check turned up warrants for their arrest filed internationally by the Ontario Provincial Police, stories in the Toronto Star and their Panamanian-based website.

"Our folks are in touch with the authorities in the Turks," said OPP spokesman Sgt. Peter Leon.

He said the OPP is exploring options to get them back in Ontario. Extradition is one option, but there may be an easier route. "The (Turks government) may deport them. If we know they are coming, we will be waiting for them."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"The wheels of justice grind, but they grind slowly."

Former MPP Eric Cunningham, a previous target of fraud by Johnson and White

Police bust crime ring using 'distraction' theft

Police say they have dismantled an international organized crime ring responsible for a series of distraction thefts across southern Ontario and Quebec.

Durham regional police say a total of 263 charges have been laid against 34 people, and 28 of the accused are in custody.

It's alleged the ring would recruit people to come to Canada, where they would claim refugee status and then apply for social assistance, primarily in Toronto.

They would then be brought into the distraction theft and fraud operation and hand over any profits to the ringleaders.

The suspects would allegedly target people on the street or in stores, then use distraction in order to steal valuables such as jewelry.

In numbers

400

The number of people suspected of being associated with the crime ring

Police say investigators looking into cases in Oshawa soon realized similar distraction methods were being reported in other areas, including Toronto, London, Sudbury and Quebec.

Durham police Chief Mike Ewles told a news conference Wednesday that the investigation dubbed Project Mansfield identified more than 400 people associated with the crime ring.

"This is by far the largest investigation of its kind here in Durham Region," Ewles said.

Police say investigators closed in last month on four main suspects living in Pickering and Toronto, but two had fled to Europe. Warrants have been issued for those two, along with four other outstanding suspects.

Social services officials have calculated that the people identified in this investigation have received more than $2 million from various social support programs since January.

Investigators seized a total of $85,000 in Canadian currency and stolen merchandise as well as credit cards. More than $1 million in suspicious wire transactions were also shipped overseas, police allege.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Personal quest

60-year-old takes on Lake Ontario

A 60-year-old Georgetown woman is chugging away on her quest to be the oldest person to cross Lake Ontario. Colleen Shields set out from Niagara-on-the-Lake at 6:15 a.m. Wednesday, said a member of her team. Her trek is being documented live in a GPS feed that updates every 10 minutes. The crossing is expected to take 18 to 20 hours, with Shields arriving in Toronto between midnight and 2 a.m. Thursday.

Shields attempted two crossings last month, but called them off due to bad weather. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Zoo. Board approves restructuring

If the Toronto Zoo board gets its way, the zoo will be running independent of city funding within 10 years.

A new internal plan, if approved by the city, will create an oversight body called the Toronto Zoological Society, staffed with 24 people including leaders from business, the corporate world and the community — but no spots reserved for city council members.

"First and foremost we're trying to take the financial pressure off the City of Toronto," said Hugh Mansfield, one of the authors of the plan.

The city gives the zoo approximately $11 million per year and that contribution is expected to continue, according to the plan, tapering off as the 2022 deadline approaches.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"The City of Toronto is giving $120 million through this procedure. So you want me to give you money but you don't want me at the same table as you?"

Coun. Glen De Baeremaeker, who opposes the new plan

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Richard III search team finds long-lost medieval church

Church of the Grey Friars. University of Leicester has spent the past two weeks digging, hope to find remains of former king

Archeologists from the University of Leicester have found the long-lost Church of the Grey Friars — the last known resting place of Richard III.

The location of the Grey Friars Church — a significant building in medieval Leicester — had been a mystery for centuries after its destruction by Henry VIII.

An archeological team from the University of Leicester — which includes a geneticist from Vancouver who is working as a research fellow at the university — has been digging up a Leicester parking lot for the past two weeks in the hopes of finding the missing church and the remains of Richard III.

So far, the archeologists have found in the first two trenches they dug tiled passageway floors that are at right angles to each other. They believe these are the remains of the cloister where members of the monastic community might have walked in thought or prayer.

In his DNA

Canadian Michael Ibsen, who now lives in London, is a descendant of Richard III's eldest sister Anne, the Duchess of Exeter. His DNA will be playing a key role in the investigation.

- Ibsen's mitochondrial DNA — which he shares with his sister who lives on Vancouver Island and his brother who lives in Toronto — will be central to determining whether any remains found at the dig belong to Richard III.

A third trench to the east — dug in an adjacent parking lot — has revealed the continuation of the wall from the cloister as well as another wall which archeologists believe may be the wall from the medieval friary church.

There archeologists have found window tracings, window glass and medieval floor tiles that have heraldic symbols on them.

"That makes us believe it's the church," said Richard Buckley, co-director of the University of Leicester Archaeological Services, who heads the dig team, in an interview with Torstar News Service.

Michael Ibsen, a genetic descendant of Richard III, swabs his mouth for a DNA sample as geneticist Dr. Turi King looks on. The sample will be used to identify the ancient English king if his remains are found in Leicester. UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

The size of the walls, the orientation of the building, its position and the presence of medieval inlaid floor tiles and architectural fragments make this almost certainly the church of the Grey Friars, he said.

"It's quite a breakthrough for the project.

"We've crossed two hurdles," said Buckley. "The next hurdle is to establish whereabouts we are in the church and can we find the choir and burials in them. If we do, then it's a question of determining if any of those burials might be Richard III."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hudak shrugs off poll results for Kitchener-Waterloo

Ontario PC Party Leader Tim Hudak greets Goran and Anica Rosic at a meeting with Waterloo residents last week. Hudak is shrugging off the results of a recent poll that put his party in third place in the Kitchener-Waterloo byelection results. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

With a fresh poll showing the NDP ahead in a crucial byelection less than 24 hours away, Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak took aim squarely at the New Democrats while campaigning Wednesday.

"With the NDP we'll just see more of the same: increased spending, increased taxes, more power for the unions," he told reporters at a downtown construction site, calling for tighter controls on government spending.

Hudak dismissed a Forum Research poll that put the NDP at 42 per cent with the Liberals and Conservatives tied at 26 per cent as Thursday's vote looms.

Quoted

"Putting Dalton McGuinty in charge of the finances is like putting rabbits in charge of lettuce delivery."

Ontario PC Leader Tim Hudak

"Polls come and go," he said, referring to a previous survey that had the parties in a three-way tie. "There's been polls bouncing all over the place."

Premier Dalton McGuinty has been trying to convince voters in the riding of Kitchener-Waterloo — held by Conservative Elizabeth Witmer for 22 years — to cast their ballots for local Liberal candidate Eric Davis to help push his government toward a de facto majority in the legislature.

Hudak said anyone voting NDP would be aiding and abetting the McGuinty regime that has placed Ontario in a $14.8-billion deficit.

"Putting Dalton McGuinty in charge of the finances is like putting rabbits in charge of lettuce delivery," Hudak quipped, wearing a white hard hat.

The New Democrats teamed up with the Liberals on a budget last spring that raised taxes on the wealthy and increased spending on some social programs.

"People have a choice here. Do you want more of the same?" Hudak asked, repeatedly evading questions on his own political fortunes should the Conservatives fail to hold the seat with candidate Tracey Weiler, a businesswoman and community volunteer.

"You take nothing for granted in politics," he added. "You always fight for every vote out there."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

YouTube sensation

Korean pop star signs on with Justin Bieber's manager

Justin Bieber's manager Scooter Braun has added to his roster of talent by signing Korean pop star Psy, who's best known for his viral music videos.

On Monday, the singer of Gangnam Style, which has received more than 100 million views on YouTube, made the announcement online.

In a short clip posted on his official YouTube channel, Psy and Braun share a drink.

"We've been hanging out in California for four days," Braun says "And we've come to an agreement to make some history together and be the first Korean artist to break a big record in the United States."

To "mark this moment in history between our great nations" the duo drink Korean alcohol known as soju.

"To Psy, to Korea, to breaking down barriers, to the future," says Braun during the toast, which is followed by a handshake. "Let's do it man."

Psy has reportedly signed to Braun's Schoolboy Records, part of Universal Republic. Other acts signed by Braun include the Stratford-born Bieber and British Columbia native Carly Rae Jepsen.

Psy is expected to appear on Thursday at the MTV Video Music Awards.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

South Korean rapper Psy

JOHN CARUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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High Point Mall
Square One
20 Dundas St E
2550 Hurontario St
888 Dundas St E, Unit B2-3
7070 Saint Barbara Blvd, Unit 22
Mississauga Market Place

Etobicoke
Woodbine Centre
2456 Lakeshore Blvd W
30A Rexdale Blvd

Brampton
Kingspoint Plaza
252 Queen St E
Shoppers World

Markham
First Markham Place, Unit 118
Pacific Mall, Unit D56

Scarborough
Agincourt Mall, Unit 0570
5981 Steeles Ave E, Unit 106
Bridlewood Mall
Scarborough Town Centre, Section C
Chartwell Shopping Centre
1885 Kennedy Rd

Rampant moth, killer bacteria threaten chestnut trees in Europe

Collapsing foliage. In England, where the chestnut tree is an icon, moths produce leaf-eating larvae, while bacteria make trees bleed and die

Visit the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris and chestnut trees greet you as you wander among graves of luminaries such as Oscar Wilde and Jim Morrison.

When Anne Frank was in hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam, the view of a monumental chestnut tree was one thing that cheered her up.

In Cambridge, England, the two-century-old chestnut standing outside King's College chapel has become a beloved icon.

In all those places — and over much of Europe — the horse chestnut tree is under threat.

Sometimes they crash across boulevards and smash cars, unable to bear the weight of their own foliage. At other times, city officials move in and cut them down before they collapse.

In high summer, their leaves can become so rusty it feels like October. As autumn approaches, many stand naked while other trees still wear their crowns of green.

The culprits: A moth that produces leaf-eating larvae and a bacterium that makes trunks bleed and die.

"In a sense it is almost like a lethal cocktail," said Dr. Darren Evans of the University of Hull. "If it is under attack by moths, it is probably going to be more susceptible to this bleeding canker — which will kill it."

A cure? Not immediately in sight.

"It is spread throughout most of northern Europe," Evans said of the leaf miner moth in a telephone interview. "We still don't really know whether there is any effective way of controlling it." The same goes for the bacteria.

Without any clear reason, the moth became rampant and spread through much of Europe about a decade ago. In Britain, it first surfaced in Wimbledon in 2002 and soon spread across England and Wales. It has flourished across the continent. The moth lays eggs in leaves and the larvae start devouring them, causing foliage to turn colour as soon as July.

The rusting robs the tree of vital sunlight for key months and, weakened, some fall prey to other diseases such as fungi.

The moth was soon joined by a bacterium that came from the Himalayas and causes chestnut bark to bleed an oozing sticky liquid, sapping the tree and in many cases causing death.

"The worst case scenario is that we lose most of our horse chestnut trees to this bleeding canker," Evans said.

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People walk past chestnut trees and graves at Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris in this file photo. It seems that the great chestnut trees of Europe are dying and the accused culprit is a moth and bacteria that make the trunks of chestnut trees bleed and die. So as chestnut trees crash across boulevards and smash cars, unable to bear the weight of their foliage any longer, it seems that a moth has bought the noble tree low, according to Dr. Darren Evans of the University of Hull in England, without a cure in sight. MICHEL EULER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survey says

Half of Britain's chestnut trees could be infected

In Britain, which has up to two million chestnut trees, a 2007 survey showed that up to half could be infected with the disease. In countries like Belgium, France and the Netherlands, the alarm has also been raised.

There is historical precedent for the fears: At the turn of the 20th century a fungus caused a mass extinction of the American chestnut tree in the eastern United States.

Europe's chestnuts came first from the Balkans and were introduced in western Europe about 500 years ago. It is a hallmark of cities rather than forests and, especially during the Victorian era, became a favourite for stately lanes, parks and squares.

Upsetting for tourists in France, Belgium

In Ghent, Belgium, last month, a huge chestnut suddenly collapsed along the upper Scheldt river, smashing a car along a road usually busy with cycling students. As in many places, city councils have been increasingly checking the health of chestnuts and, if there's any doubt, cut them down as a safety precaution.

The chestnuts are all gone this summer from the city's Groentenmarkt medieval centre, depriving weary tourists of reprieve from the sun.

The chestnuts, or marroniers, in Paris are also part of the attraction at Pere Lachaise. But last year, visitors could walk ankle deep through rusty leaves in the middle of July.

"It's a problem all over Paris," said cemetery conservator Martine Lecuyer, although she said heavy rainfall made this year a little better.

In Amsterdam, officials are scrambling to try to save chestnuts within the famed canal belt. For Anne Frank's tree, help came too late. The 150-year-old tree, affected by the moth and fungi, weakened progressively and crashed to the ground two years ago.

Human reaction

- Just as bad for chestnuts is the way people deal with the problem: On Ghent's Groentenmarkt, the new trees are now linden, and the example is followed in many parts of Europe.
- "Many local authorities are then no longer planting horse chestnut trees because they fear — what is the point in planting something that is going to be susceptible to attack," Evans said.

If the darkest predictions prove true, many Britons will mourn chestnut trees as the passing of part of their youth: The game of "conkers," in which children take turns trying to smash chestnuts, was once a popular pastime on playgrounds across the country.

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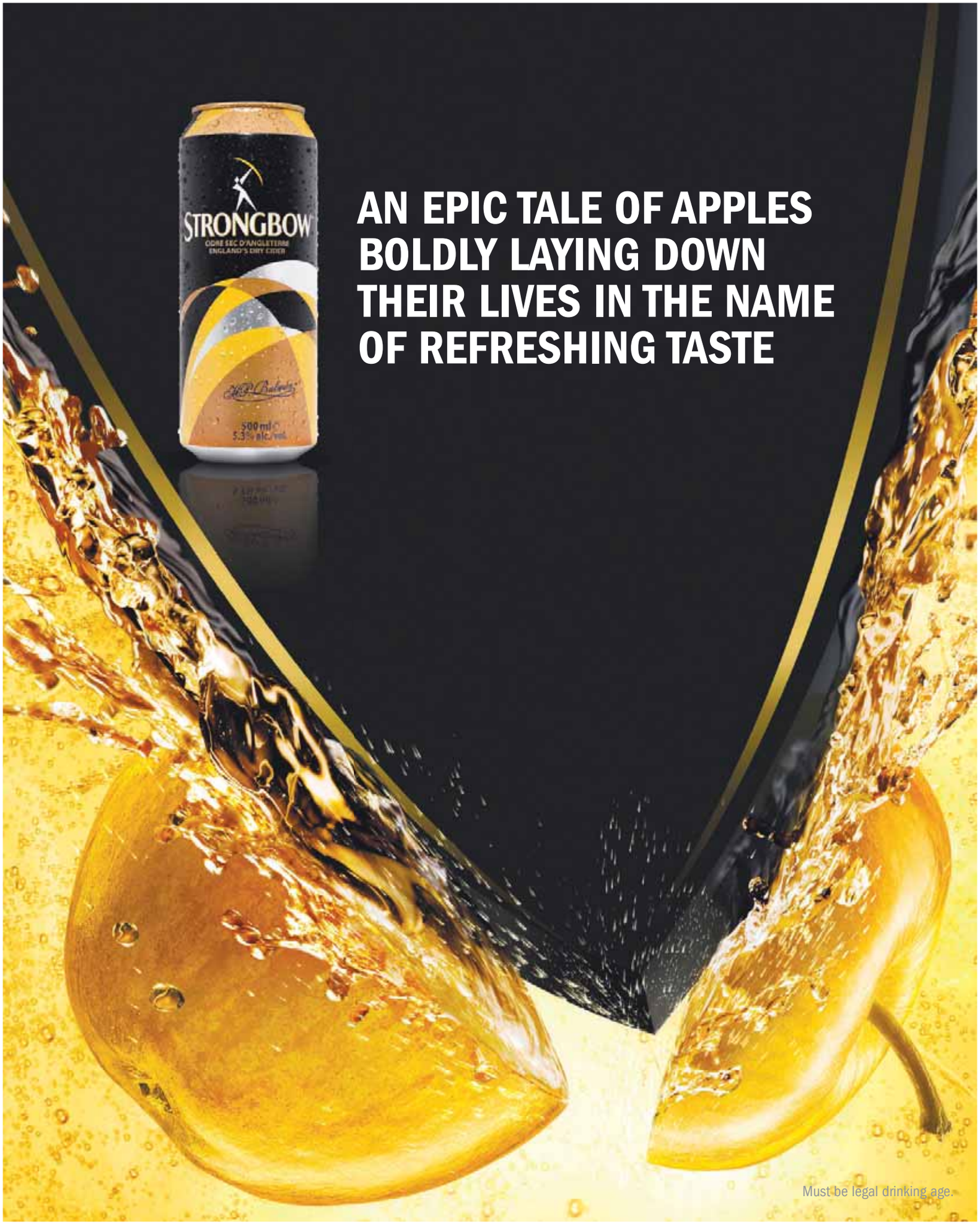
A chestnut pod is seen amidst brown-spotted leaves on a chestnut tree in Westmalle, Belgium. VIRGINIA MAYO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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The future. Referendum on the back-burner, but Harper's in her sights

Quebec Premier-designate Pauline Marois says she'll do her best to push ahead with the more contentious parts of her campaign platform despite her minority-government status.

Marois, whose Parti Québécois won 54 of the province's 125 ridings on Tuesday, conceded Wednesday the difficulty of the task — given that the Liberals have 50 members and Francois Legault's Coalition party 19.

She never once referred to an independence referendum during her post-election news conference and no reporter bothered asking about one.

She said she'll try to make progress on the more divisive parts of her platform — those dealing with language, culture and federal-provincial relations — but will need to seek consensus from the other parties.

"I hoped for a majority but the people of Quebec decided otherwise," Marois said. "We must learn to work within this context and reality."

Marois promised to cancel planned tuition hikes.

She'll attempt to introduce a language law — a "new Bill 101" — to stop a perceived decline in French, which she said remains "at the heart of our concerns."

And she said she still plans to push the Stephen Harper Tories on multiple fronts. But her battles will be carefully chosen, she added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Many, many proposals that I will be implementing are accepted by the other parties."

Pauline Marois,
Quebec premier-designate.

The economy. Business leaders wary of PQ plans for finances, language

Quebec's business leaders have called on the new minority Parti Québécois government to review election promises they say risk slowing investment and the province's competitiveness.

"Quebec doesn't have the necessary financial flexibility to pay all the electoral promises, especially if projected revenues don't materialize," said Yves-Thomas Dorval, president of the Quebec Employers Council.

The powerful lobby group said it supports the party's proposals to improve education, modernize transit and balance the budget.

But it said business opposes PQ pledges concerning regulations, public finances and the imposition of higher taxes on the wealthy.

The council is particularly concerned that proposed changes to language law Bill 101 would extend provisions of the French language Charter and increase operating costs for smaller companies.

The Quebec Manufacturers and Exporters Association said the minority legislature's sole priority must be to advance Quebec in an uncertain global economy.

President Simon Prevost said there is too much uncertainty about how politicians will help the Quebec economy to grow and prosper.

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Was Marois the target in shock gun attack?

Charges pending. Panic ended the election euphoria as Quebec premier-elect was dragged off the stage to safety

Charges are expected soon in a shooting that may have targeted Quebec's premier-in-waiting.

The attack at a Parti Québécois victory celebration Tuesday sent shockwaves across Canada.

Police were continuing Wednesday to question the only suspect.

He was being evaluated at a Montreal hospital and a police spokesperson said he expects a court arraignment Thursday morning.

Police sources said the suspect is 62-year-old Richard Henry Bain, owner of a fishing retreat in the Laurentian mountains north of Montreal.

The gunman was wearing a housecoat and balaclava when he was tackled by police after two people were shot, one of whom died.

Police say they cannot rule out the possibility that Premier-designate Pauline Marois was the shooter's target.

While the gunman was only metres away, he never actually made it past the doorway into the room where Marois was speaking.

While he was being taken away into a police vehicle, the suspect shouted an expletive and spoke of an awakening of English-speaking Quebecers.

Marois pleaded for calm Wednesday.

"Never, never will I accept that Quebec is associated with violence," she said.

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Quebec Premier-designate Pauline Marois reacts Wednesday as she comments on the post-election shooting in Montreal. "Never, never will I accept that Quebec is associated with violence," she declared.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charest: 'We are blessed'

Jean Charest is ending a stormy 28-year political career — including the last nine years as Quebec premier.

Charest, a staunch federalist who served as federal Progressive Conservative leader before becoming Quebec Liberal leader in 1998, spent a good part of his announcement in Quebec City Wednesday praising Canada.

"We are all blessed to have been born in this country,'' said Charest, 54.

But the longtime premier also hailed Quebecers, who elected him premier in 2003, 2007 and 2008.

"We are a people of dreamers but also builders,'' he said.

Charest's resignation will take effect in a few days when the Parti Québécois officially takes power after its minority victory on Tuesday.

Charest lost his own seat in the provincial election and saw his party form the official Opposition.

He prided himself during his three mandates as premier as a sound economic manager, particularly during the 2008 economic crisis that rocked the world.

He became the youngest cabinet minister in 1986 at the age of 28.

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Jean Charest gets teary as he announces his resignation on Wednesday.

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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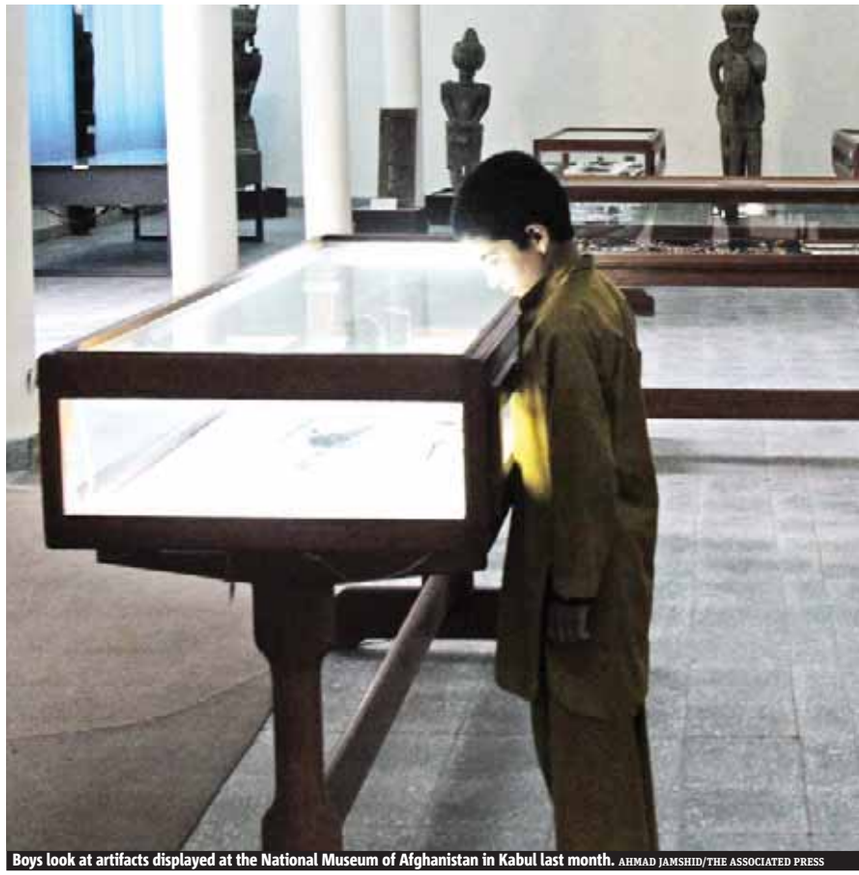

Boys look at artifacts displayed at the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul last month. AHMAD JAMSHID/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Looted artifacts' return helps rebuild Afghan museum

Weathering war. National museum overcomes decades of hardship to restore facility to pre-war reputation as one of region's finest

Right down to the power cuts that frequently plunge its artifacts into shadow, the National Museum of Afghanistan is a symbol of the country's decades of hardships. Its building was shelled, looted and caught fire during the civil war in the 1990s. Taliban extremists later smashed many centuries-old statues.

Now, the museum is slowly rebuilding, thanks to international efforts to return thousands of looted treasures — and to heroic Afghan staff members who hid its most priceless works during the war years and kept the secret for more than a decade.

The museum welcomed home nearly 850 Afghan artifacts in early August — including a 3,000-year-old Bronze Age axe, a 1st Century ivory elephant carving and a life-sized Buddha statue — that were either stolen from the museum or illegally excavated during decades of insecurity.

The museum welcomed home 850 Afghan artifacts in August. AHMAD JAMSHID/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The British Museum catalogued and helped return the pieces in co-operation with British authorities, who seized many from smugglers. It was the second major handover of Afghan historical pieces by the British Museum. In 2009, about 1,500 historical pieces were returned.

The aim is to restore the facility to its pre-war reputation as one of the finest in the region, with displays ranging from the Bronze Age to more contemporary Islamic art.

The museum's latest acquisition is a Buddha statue estimated at about 1,700 years old. Looted from the museum during the civil war that followed the Soviet occupation, the statue turned up in Japan in a private collection before it was bought by an anonymous donor who arranged for the return to its Afghan home.

That's a heritage that not all appreciate. In 2001, the Taliban dynamited a pair of giant Buddhas carved into a mountain in Bamiyan province. Around the same time, the Taliban also rampaged through the national museum, smashing any art depicting the human form, considered idolatrous under their hardline interpretation of Islam. In all, they destroyed about 2,500 statues.

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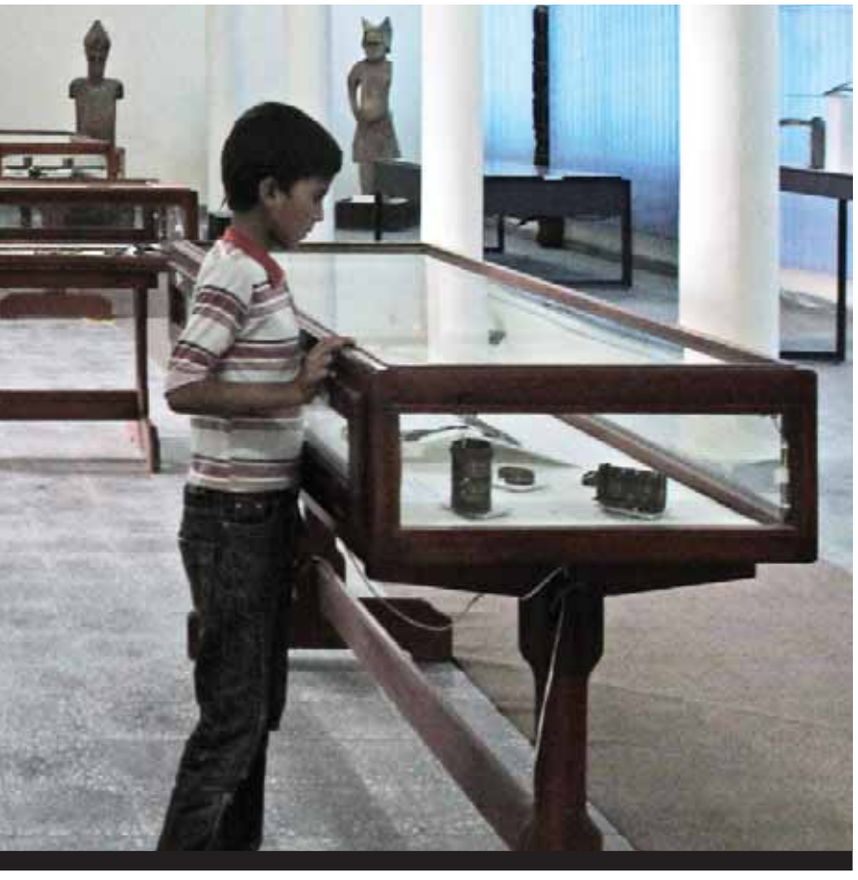

A worker examines artifacts handed over to the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul. MUSADEQ SADEQ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Hidden treasure

The National Museum was once renowned for having one of the region's finest collections, with some 100,000 artifacts including millennia-old tools from some of the earliest human settlements.

- But after Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989, museum workers became increasingly concerned as the country deteriorated into civil war.
- So, in 1989, several staff members packed up some of the museum's most treasured pieces — including the legendary "Bactrian gold," an intricate collection of tens of thousands of gold and silver coins, crowns and jewelry more than 2,000 years old — and hid them in two locations in central Kabul, one of them a secret vault under Kabul's central bank.
- The pieces remained hidden until 2003, when their existence was revealed. Now the Bactrian gold and other rescued artifacts are on a tour of museums around the world, having already been displayed in New York, Paris and London.

Probe.
Soldiers fired over insider attacks

Afghan authorities have detained or removed hundreds of soldiers in an investigation into rising insider attacks against international service personnel who are their supposed partners in the fight against Taliban insurgents and other militants, officials said Wednesday.

The crackdown is the result of the Afghan Defence Ministry's effort to re-evaluate soldiers to stem the attacks, which are complicating plans to train Afghan forces so that most foreign troops can withdraw from the country by the end of 2014. President Hamid Karzai's government hopes Afghan forces can take responsibility for security nationwide by that time.

The U.S. military is taking precautionary measures and recently stopped training about 1,000 members of the Afghan Local Police, a controversial network of village-defence units that is growing but remains a fraction of the country's army and police force. Karzai has expressed concern that without careful vetting, the program could end up arming local troublemakers, strongmen or criminals.

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Striking miners in South Africa threaten to kill nearby workers

Wage dispute.
Tensions are high in the city located outside Johannesburg where police killed 34 striking miners two weeks ago

Striking miners in South Africa threatened to kill workers in a nearby mine Wednesday unless they joined the crippling work stoppage.

Hundreds of the striking Lonmin miners, supported by ululating women, gathered Wednesday near the spot where police killed 34 striking miners on Aug. 16. The striking miners then marched from the Marikana platinum mine northwest of Johannesburg to the nearby Karee mine, which is also owned by Lonmin, and demanded that all workers join the strike for higher wages or face violence and even death.

The striking mine workers gave working colleagues a deadline of 1 p.m. to leave Karee mine or be killed.

"After 1 p.m. we don't want to see anybody in the shaft. Those who come to work tomorrow we will kill them,'' said one striker who refused to give his name. Another man shouted, "There will be more blood if we do not get 12,500 rand."

The strikers said they want a monthly minimum wage of $1,560 US.

A delegation of seven young strikers was allowed to meet with mine managers. They were led past the phalanx of six police armoured cars and a water cannon truck to the barbed wire gate of Karee Mine. Behind the gate the Karee mine's two white mine managers, with an armed security guard nearby, stood with their hands on their hips as the strikers got down on their knees.

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Different this time

- Unlike previous protests, the striking miners carried only sticks and were not armed with spears and machetes that they had brandished in previous protests.
- The London-registered Lonmin PLC mine has warned that the strike that began Aug. 10 could cost 40,000 jobs if it continues.

Police try to prevent striking mine workers marching to the Karee shaft at the Lonmin Platinum Mine near Rustenburg, South Africa Wednesday, to hand over a memorandum to mine management. Miners are refusing to return to work until their demands over low pay and working conditions are met.
DENIS FARRELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man helps a wounded child at the Dar al-Shifa hospital, in Aleppo, Syria. Local residents say an attack was launched by Syrian government forces onto a densely populated area of the city on Monday. APTN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria accused of 'state terrorism'

Turkey accused Syria of "state terrorism" Wednesday after a sharp spike in the death toll from the Syrian civil war, and Iran came under new scrutiny with the U.S. alleging that Tehran is flying weapons to President Bashar Assad's regime across Iraqi airspace.

With violence escalating in the nearly 18-month-old crisis, strains rippled across the region as Egypt's president urged Assad to take a lesson from the Arab Spring uprisings that deposed other leaders and step down.

There appears to be no end in sight for the conflict, however. Neither side seems to be able to gain a significant advantage in the fighting that has killed 23,000 people, according to activists' estimates.

Turkey has become one of the strongest critics of Assad and is host to Syrian opposition groups as well as about 80,000 of the more than 200,000 refugees who have fled to surrounding countries to escape the bloodshed.

"The regime has become one of state terrorism," said Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. "Syria is going through a huge humanitarian saga. Unfortunately, as usual, the international community is merely watching the slaughter, massacre and the elimination of Muslims."

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Pope's ride a greener set of wheels

Usage. Kangoo doesn't have full security features since it's to be used on Vatican territory only

Pope Benedict XVI is now a bit greener.

The 85-year-old pontiff was presented with his first electric car Wednesday, a customized white Renault Kangoo for jaunts around the gardens of the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo.

Benedict has been dubbed the "green pope" for his environmental concerns — a hallmark of his papacy. He has written of the need to protect God's creation in his encyclicals, and raised the issue on his foreign trips and in his peace messages.

Under his watch, the Vatican has installed photovoltaic cells on its auditorium and joined a reforestation project to offset carbon dioxide emissions.

Now the pope has his own ozone-preserving electric car, which he used on Wednesday to travel from the helipad at Castel Gandolfo to his palazzo. He was returning to his retreat in the Alban Hills after presiding over his weekly general audience in the Vatican.

Earlier this year, Italian automaker NWG donated an electric car to the Vatican, but it was for the press office. Renault also turned over the keys to a blue version of the Kangoo for the Vatican gendarmes to tool around Vatican City.

Though Benedict's Renault is white and carries the papal seal on its doors, it isn't a popemobile. Mercedes-Benz, which makes the popemobile with bullet-proof windows for trips outside the Vatican, has been studying a hybrid, energy-saving model. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

French automaker Renault's president Carlos Ghosn presents a Renault electric car as a gift to Pope Benedict XVI in the Garden of the Vatican City on Wednesday. OSSERVATORE ROMANO/GETTY IMAGES

ORNGE. Premier fails to appear at probe — again

Premier Dalton McGuinty has ignored a second request to testify before an all-party committee probing the ORNGE scandal.

House leader John Milloy and the premier's senior health policy adviser, Sophia Ikura, also did not accept an invitation to appear before the probe on Wednesday.

Despite claims that the Liberals want to get to the bottom of the air-ambulance scandal, Progressive Conservative MPP Christine Elliott charged they are blocking progress.

"Clearly, there is a problem here," she said.

ORNGE, a public agency that receives $150 million annually, is the focus of an ongoing Ontario Provincial Police investigation concerning questionable contracts and business dealings. An all-party, provincial committee has also been examining the turmoil at ORNGE for five months.

McGuinty brushed off calls for him to appear. Responding to Tory questions in the legislature, the premier said the committee has sat for 89 hours and listened to 57 witnesses. Now is the time to stop fishing and to release recommendations on how to fix the agency, he added.

Milloy later denied he refused to testify. He told reporters that his busy schedule made it impossible. McGuinty added Ikura is pregnant and was at the doctors Wednesday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Premier Dalton McGuinty has ignored a second request to testify at the ORNGE probe. RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Transfer. Omar Khadr's mental evaluations handed over by U.S.

American military authorities have given the Canadian government the videotapes and documents it wanted related to Guantanamo Bay detainee Omar Khadr, Ottawa confirmed Wednesday.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews said he needed them to decide on Khadr's application to transfer to Canadian custody.

"When the items are reviewed, the minister will give them the appropriate consideration and render a decision in accordance with Canadian law," Toews' spokeswoman Julie Carmichael said.

One of Khadr's Canadian lawyers said there was now no reason for Toews to drag out the decision-making process any longer given Canada's commitment almost two years ago to take him back.

"He should make a decision now," said Brydie Bethell. "There's absolutely no reason for him not to decide."

Toews said he needed the videotapes and transcripts of the mental evaluations of Khadr — which were done for the military commission prosecution before his trial in October 2010 — to help him decide if Khadr would pose a threat to Canada.

Video of the assessments by a civilian psychiatrist, Dr. Michael Welner, and military psychologist, Maj. Alan Hopewell, were sealed by the military commission that convicted the Canadian citizen of war crimes.

Welner, the prosecution's star witness at Khadr's trial who relied in part on writings by an anti-Islamic Danish psychologist, concluded the Toronto-born Khadr, 25, was an unrepentant and dangerous jihadist.

Hopewell deemed Khadr to be defensive and manipulative, but also mentally stable, upbeat, and an independent thinker who saw himself as a Canadian. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Liberals. Rae urges party members to look westward

Interim federal Liberal Leader Bob Rae exhorted his party to turn its eyes to the West Wednesday even as the country was consumed with navel gazing over the never-ending Quebec sovereignty question.

Liberals had been positioning themselves as the party of national unity ahead of Tuesday's Parti Québécois election win in Quebec, but Rae pitched a more pan-Canadian message as 35 MPs and 40 senators sat down for their fall planning session.

In an effort to spread his party's federalist credentials beyond the old French-English divide, Rae turned to Alberta's olive branch on a national energy policy. Alberta's premier has spoken of the need for an energy strategy, an idea to which the Harper government appears cold, Rae noted.

He made a pitch for a west-to-east pipeline, using the argument about "ethical oil" to question why Central Canada, by inference, is forced to consume "unethical" foreign oil.

"See this as a national project," Rae said of his pipeline pitch. "We're not building pipelines, my friend, we're building a country. It's called Canada."

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Interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae delivers a speech during the party's summer caucus at Chateau Montebello in Quebec on Wednesday.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shell. Full steam ahead for oilsands carbon capture

Royal Dutch Shell aims to be the first company to capture and store carbon-dioxide emissions from an oilsands project, but not necessarily because it's counting on financial returns from the technology.

"The sustainability of our business depends not only on our ability to compete economically, but also to keep raising the standard in environmental management," John Abbott, the energy giant's executive vice-president of heavy oil, said in a speech Wednesday.

Shell plans to capture one million tonnes of CO_2 annually from its Scotford oilsands upgrader northeast of Edmonton. The gas will be prevented from entering the atmosphere and contributing to climate change.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mulcair wants NDP election-ready by 2014

Caucus retreat. 'Two years seems like a long time, but it's actually quite fast in politics,' says leader

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair arrives at the party's annual summer caucus retreat in St. John's on Wednesday.

PAUL DALY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair wants his party to be "completely ready" by the fall of 2014 for a federal election that he predicts will come sooner than expected.

Under the fixed-election law introduced in 2006, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's purported effort to ensure a fixed four-year interval between elections, the next vote is supposed to take place on Oct. 19, 2015.

There's just one catch: The law has never done what it was supposed to do, and there's no reason to think that's going to change any time soon, Mulcair said Wednesday during his party's annual summer caucus retreat in St. John's.

Harper called an election in the fall of 2008, just two-and-a-half years after the previous vote. His minority government became a majority less than three years later in the spring of 2011.

Indeed, Harper has already hinted the law will be amended to ensure the next federal campaign doesn't overlap with as many as seven different provincial elections scheduled for about the same time.

"We're counting on the past to guarantee the future," Mulcair said. "We're thinking that the likely timeline is the spring of 2015, which makes it even more important for us to be completely ready for the fall of '14."

Mulcair opened the retreat by advising his caucus that "a two-year countdown has started for us."

"By the fall of '14, we've got to be completely ready to take on the Conservatives in the next election with a much more generous and fair vision of (the) type of Canada that we all want to build together."

The retreat marks the first time New Democrats have had the luxury of indulging in long-term planning since vaulting into official Opposition status in the May 2011 election.

Since then, the party has been lurching from one crisis to another: Scrambling to train inexperienced MPs, coping with the death last summer of leader Jack Layton, organizing a bruising, seven-month leadership race and making the transition to Mulcair's leadership while mounting a simultaneous parliamentary war against the Tories' omnibus budget bill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fall focus

- In the near term, Mulcair says his caucus will focus this fall on three key areas that arose out of last spring's budget: Employment insurance reforms that could negatively impact seasonal workers, raising the retirement age to 67 and the "gutting" of environmental assessment legislation.

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Vancouver's Green Men make super-fan list

Unique breed of fans. The Vancouver Canucks supporters to be recognized as super fans

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
Metro in Vancouver

Vancouver's Green Men are probably doing handstands of happiness right now.

The spandex-wearing duo — Force and Sully — have cemented their name in ESPN's Hall of Fans, being one of three super fans who will be inducted in the inaugural class.

"It's really cool knowing that making it two or three years in spandex has paid off and that people recognize the fandom behind it all," Sully said.

However, according to an ESPN press release, it seems that only Sully will get his name immortalized.

Sully said as far as he knows it's both of them being inducted.

"But if it's just me, that could be a little awkward," he added.

"I'm not exactly sure how it's going to go down, but the Green Men, the Canucks and Canada will be represented one way or another."

An ESPN spokesperson told Metro Wednesday that Force will be an honorary member.

The winning super fans will be honoured with a plaque plastered on three vintage stadium chairs at a ceremony on ESPN's Bristol, Conn. campus on Sept. 19.

The winners will also get a $1,000 StubHub gift certificate and a write-up in the Oct. 5 edition of ESPN The Magazine.

"It's just really amazing to follow up Ryan Kesler's appearance last year in the ESPN magazine. We're going to have a bit more clothing on, but we can't promise that," Sully said. "It's going to be something that we can share with our fans back home here. We started doing this because of the fans and we've always done this for the fans.

"I'm not sure if there's a podium or time for speeches, but if there is we'll definitely go up there and make sure everyone is accounted for," he added.

Sully, one half of Vancouver's Green Men, is one of three super fans to be inducted in ESPN's Hall of Fans. But an ESPN representative said Force will be an honorary member. SCREENGRAB/THEHALLOFFANS.COM

Russia

Cyber-attack warning goes out to U.K. businesses

The head of Britain's secret eavesdropping agency says businesses face an unprecedented threat from cyber attacks.

Iain Lobban, head of GCHQ — Britain's equivalent of the U.S. National Security Agency — held talks Wednesday with executives from a host of FTSE 100-listed companies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

Male circumcision OK for religious reasons: Official

Infant male circumcision for religious reasons is legal in Berlin, a top state official said Wednesday, making the capital the first of Germany's 16 states to specify that the ritual followed by Jews and Muslims shouldn't be considered a crime. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian president set to fly high with birds

Putin's critic

- **Off the job.** Masha Gessen, author of a book critical of Putin, left her post as editor of the travel and science magazine Vokrug Sveta (Around the World) this week, claiming she was fired for refusing to send a reporter 3,500 kilometres northwest of Moscow to Yamal Peninsula to cover Putin's flight with the cranes. A statement from the magazine Tuesday said she left by agreement with management because of "differences" on the separation of editorial and publishing powers.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is reportedly planning to put on a fake beak and fly a motorized hang-glider to lead a flock of endangered young Siberian white cranes on part of their migration to Asia.

The cranes, raised in captivity, do not know how to fly south, and environmentalists have to devise an imitation lead crane to show them the way.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the Interfax news agency Wednesday that the flight is to take place "one of these days." He could not be reached by The Associated Press for elaboration.

The newspaper Vedomosti said it is expected before Putin chairs the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vladivostok beginning Friday.

Putin has become alternately notorious and beloved for an array of macho stunts, including posing with a tiger cub and riding a horse bare-chested.

Some of the stunts, such as petting a polar bear tranquilized in the wild, have purported scientific connections. But Putin last year was caught short when one of the events was revealed to be a set-up.

In that case, Putin was shown scuba diving and bringing up fragments of ancient Greek amphorae. But Peskov later admitted the artifacts had been planted on the sea floor for Putin to grab.

The stunts irritate Putin's opponents, who regard them not as benign political entertainment but as part of an establishment of a cult of personality lionizing an authoritarian leader. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Charlottetown Harbour Authority CEO Les Parsons said the mess left behind by seagulls at their wharf is three to four times as bad as that of a flock of city pigeons. MATT CARDY/GETTY IMAGES

‘Shoo-er’ hired to rid Charlottetown of seagull stink

Gull cop. Guard with starter pistol will replace replica animals, falconer and threatening noise as new deterrent against seagull roosting

Charlottetown has hired a seagull “shoo-er” in a last-ditch attempt to rescue its lucrative cruise ship industry from a welcome mat of guano.

“Imagine you walk off a ship and you’re walking through an inch or two of bird (poop),” Les Parsons, chief executive officer of the Charlottetown Harbour Authority, told the Torstar News Service on Wednesday.

“Welcome to Charlottetown.”

A thousand noisy, hungry, defecating seagulls at once can congregate at the city’s wharf, close to the island capital’s downtown.

“It’s hard to describe. Without exaggerating, it’s three to four times as bad” as the splattering a flock of city pigeons can leave, said Parsons.

The designated seagull shoo-er will patrol the wharf at night, using a starter pistol to scare away seagulls “in the hundreds” that are attempting to roost on roofs.

“Fall is the worst time of year. Mating season is over, the eggs are hatched and the immature gulls don’t have as much fear as the older ones,” said Parsons.

Fall is also the launch of the busiest time of the cruise season, an industry worth $13 million last year to Prince Edward Island. The Harbour Authority is expecting 18 more ships during 2012.

The remains of several different seagull deterrents dot the wharf: a fake fox impaled on a spike, replica alligator heads and owls.

A loudspeaker system that broadcasts a range of threatening sounds every two or three minutes, from a dog’s bark to an eagle’s cry, is still used, but not when ships are in port.

They all work for a while, said Parsons, and then the gulls get wise. The Harbour Authority even tried a falconer with a trained hawk tethered to his arm.

“Either these gulls are stupid or they’re galling.”

Only a human shoo-er is effective in preventing determined roosting, although it’s an expensive option the Harbour Authority saves for a crisis.

The gull cop, hired through a security firm, will be paid $12 to $13 an hour throughout the season.

“It’s not physically demanding work, but it can get boring,” Parsons said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Breakaway Amish group. Hair-cutting left residents screaming, sheriff says

The sheriff in a county with one of the United States' biggest Amish settlements testified Wednesday that residents were upset and screaming after a community leader had his beard and hair cut by fellow followers of the highly traditional religion in a nighttime home invasion.

"There was a lot of screaming and yelling," Holmes County Sheriff Timothy Zimmerly testified in the federal trial of 16 defendants in the attacks last year in Ohio.

Zimmerly said he went to the home of an Amish bishop after the attack and found his hair unevenly chopped to the scalp, leaving it bloody.

"There was a lot of hair laying on the floor," he testified as Amish watched from the public gallery, the women wearing white bonnets, the men wearing jeans and suspenders. "They were excited, very upset."

The defence has tried to portray the attacks as internal church disciplinary matters, not a religion-based hate crime as prosecutors contend.

Attorneys for the defendants have not denied that the hair-cuttings took place and said in opening statements that members of a breakaway group took action out of compassion and concern that some Amish were straying from their beliefs.

Those accused of planning and taking part in the attacks targeted the hair and beards of Amish bishops because of its spiritual significance in the faith, prosecutors said. Most Amish men do not shave their beards after marriage, believing it signifies their devotion to God.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Breakaway leader?

Prosecutors allege there were five attacks last year, orchestrated by Sam Mullet Sr.

- Mullet has denied ordering the hair-cutting but said he didn't stop anyone from carrying it out.
- All of the defendants could face lengthy prison terms if convicted on charges that include conspiracy and obstructing justice.

Aurora borealis lights up the north

The northern lights made a spectacular early-morning appearance Wednesday, bursting into the sky over southern Manitoba around 1 a.m. Also known as the aurora borealis, the natural phenomenon makes its way to southern Canada a few times a year.

RON CANTIVEROS/FOR METRO IN WINNIPEG

Senate debate

Argentinians consider lowering voting age to 16

Debate began in Argentina's senate Wednesday on a proposal to lower the voting age from 18 to 16, while another battle heated up over efforts to bring politics into the public schools.

Sen. Anibal Fernandez, who is sponsoring the voting measure, said it's "stupid" to think 16-year-olds aren't mature enough to vote. A hundred years ago, Argentina set the voting age at 18, and Fernandez argued to his fellow senators that people have advanced enough since then to lower the age by two years.

Sen. Gerardo Morales, who leads the senate's largest opposition party, said the Radicals are "clearly in favour of expanding rights" and would support the measure.

Other opposition figures have alleged that giving younger teenagers the vote is an attempt by President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner to swing the next elections.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Scientists reveal 'global view' of how genome works

ENCODE project. Papers describe highly complex networks that tell our genes what to do

This image shows the 46 human chromosomes. Each contains genes, but genes constitute only two per cent of DNA. On Wednesday, 500 scientists reported on the complex functions occurring in the rest of DNA.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

A colossal international effort has yielded the first comprehensive look at how our DNA works, an encyclopedia of information that will rewrite the textbooks and offer new insights into the biology of disease.

For one thing, it may help explain why some people are more prone to common ailments such as high blood pressure and heart disease.

The findings, reported Wednesday by more than 500 scientists, reveal extraordinarily complex networks that tell our genes what to do and when, with millions of on-off switches.

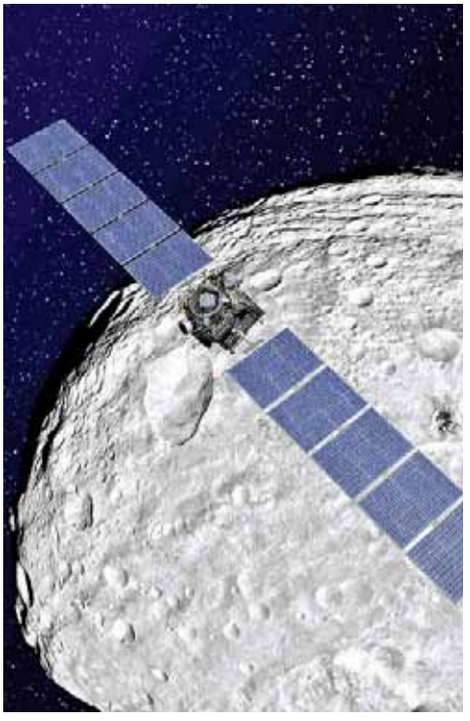
"It's this incredible choreography going on, of a modest number of genes and an immense number of ... switches that are choreographing how those genes are used," said Dr. Eric Green, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, which organized the project.

The work also shows that at least 80 per cent of the human genetic code, or genome, is active. That's surprisingly high and a sharp contrast to the idea that the vast majority of our DNA is junk.

Most people know that DNA contains genes, which hold the instructions for life. But scientists have long known those genetic blueprints take up only about two per cent of the genome, and their understanding of what's going on in the rest has been murky.

It's "our first global view of how the genome functions;" sort of a Google Maps that allows both bird's-eye and close-up views of what's going on, said Elise Feingold of the genome institute.

The findings were released in 30 papers published by three scientific journals. The project is called ENCODE, for Encyclopedia of DNA Elements. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



A new day for Dawn

An artist rendering released by NASA shows the NASA Dawn spacecraft in orbit around the giant asteroid Vesta. After spending a year examining Vesta, Dawn is now heading toward the dwarf planet Ceres, where it will arrive in 2015. NASA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spacewalk

Astronauts revive space station's electrical systems

Spacewalking astronauts triumphed over a stubborn bolt and installed a critical power-switching box at the International Space Station on Wednesday, reviving electrical systems.

Engineers on the ground and the astronauts in orbit scrambled over the weekend to devise makeshift tools to clean metal shavings from the bolt's socket after last week's failed effort. That outing was one of the longest spacewalks on record.

This time, NASA's Sunita Williams and Japan's Akihiko Hoshide were armed with a blue toothbrush, a wire brush and other tools.

"It's been like living on the set of Apollo 13 for the past few days," said Mission Control, referring to the 1970 effort to save the three astronauts on an aborted moon mission. "NASA does impossible pretty darn well."

The problem had cut the amount of electrical power available to the orbiting lab, and a variety of equipment had to be turned off.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Notorious spy chief back in Libyan hands

Bombing. The former Libyan spy chief is accused of complicity in the airline bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people

Late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi with Abdullah al-Senoussi.
ABDEL MAGID AL-FERGANY/THE ASSOCIATED

Deposed Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi's notorious spy chief is in custody in Tripoli after extradition from Mauritania, Libya's premier said Wednesday, in a step toward bringing the man linked to aircraft bombings and atrocities to justice.

A plane carrying Abdullah al-Senoussi landed in the afternoon at Metiga air base in the heart of Tripoli in the afternoon. From there he was flown by helicopter to the Hill Prison in the capital.

"Abdullah al-Senoussi will have a fair trial according to international standards for human rights, the rights from which Libyans were deprived," Prime Minister Abdurrahim el-Keib told reporters in Tripoli.

The former spy chief is accused of complicity in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, as well as the Abu Salim prison massacre of more than 1,200 inmates by Gadhafi's regime in 1996 and another airplane bombing in 1989.

Mauritania, Libya, the International Criminal Court and France all asked to try the former intelligence chief.

Geraldine Mattioli-Zeltner, international justice advocacy director at the U.S.-based group Human Rights Watch, called on Libya to ensure al-Senoussi is treated humanely and that his rights are safeguarded.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oldest war vet in Philippines dead at 111

Filipino veteran Alfonso Fabros attends a recognition ceremony at the Capas National Shrine on April 10 in Tarlac province, northern Philippines. The Philippines said its oldest World War II veteran, Fabros, has died at age 111. Fabros served with the U.S. Armed Forces in the Far East when the Japanese invaded the Philippines, then an American colony in December 1942. PHILIPPINES VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE

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The artist as a young stripper?

Top New York court to rule. Nite Moves strip club claims its lap dances are a form of art

No one would confuse the Nite Moves strip club with the Bolshoi Ballet, but what the lap dancers do there is art and entitled to the same tax exemption other performances enjoy, a lawyer argued Wednesday in what was surely one of the racier tax cases ever to go before New York's highest court.

W. Andrew McCullough, an attorney for the suburban Albany strip joint, told the Court of Appeals that admission fees and lap dances at the club should be freed of state sales taxes under an exemption that applies to "dramatic or musical arts performances."

He said that lap dancing is an art form and that, in any case, the state is not qualified to make such determinations, and that making such distinctions would be a violation of the constitutional right to freedom of expression.

A lawyer for the state rejected that analysis, and authorities are demanding about $400,000 in back taxes from the club.

A ruling is expected next month, with possible consequences for the estimated 150 to 200 adult nightclubs in the state.

During Wednesday's arguments from the club's lawyer, a skeptical Judge Eugene Pigott Jr. said the women are hired untrained and simply "do what they do." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 10,000-hours theory?

"It's definitely a form of art. Some girls are up there practising for hours when nobody's in here.

A dancer at Nite Moves, where there was only one customer at the time. She declined to give her name.

Waiting to digest. X-ray proves man ate diamond

A man visiting a gem exhibition in Sri Lanka's capital swallowed a 1.5-carat diamond in front of the owner and was taken by police to a hospital, where an X-ray showed the $13,000 stone inside him.

Exhibitor Suresh Wijekoon said the man was behaving suspiciously at his stalls and when he reached closer to the suspect, the man suddenly swallowed the diamond at his hand before Suresh alerted police at the exhibition venue.

Chou Wan, a 32-year-old from China, is in custody pending further investigation, police spokesman Ajith Rohana said.

An X-ray proved the diamond was inside Chou's body, said hospital director Dr. Anil Jasinghe at Colombo National, where the suspect was taken. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gem exhibition

- Sri Lanka does not mine diamonds but is renowned for other highly treasured gems.
- Facets Sri Lanka 2012 is the island nation's annual largest gem and jewelry exhibition and it attracts a large number of local and foreign buyers.

Serious injury

Czech zookeeper hurt by hippo

A zookeeper in the Czech Republic was rushed to hospital by helicopter after being seriously injured by a pygmy hippopotamus Wednesday. An official said the woman was being treated in an intensive-care unit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Die Hard' policeman

Traffic cop thinks he's Bruce Willis

A South Korean traffic cop who arrested a drug suspect after clinging to the windshield and roof of the car for 25 minutes has gotten a promotion and is being called the "Die Hard policeman" by local media. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protester nabbed bear-handed

A police officer detains a Greenpeace activist dressed as a polar bear outside Gazprom's headquarters in Moscow on Wednesday. Russian and international environmentalists are protesting against Gazprom's plans to pioneer oil drilling in the Arctic. MISHA JAPARIDZE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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No outdoor speech

Storm fears push Obama inside

Democratic officials are moving U.S. President Barack Obama's convention speech Thursday indoors because of the possibility of severe weather.

Obama had planned to accept his party's nomination in an outdoor football stadium in Charlotte, N.C.

But forecasters have predicted severe thunderstorms in the 9 to 10 p.m. hour, raising concerns about the safety of supporters, volunteers, staff members and law enforcement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Storms on horizon

Leslie, Michael churning closer

U.S. forecasters say storm Leslie has strengthened into the sixth hurricane of the Atlantic season but is still far from land.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Michael is gaining strength farther out to sea, but not posing a threat yet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scooter man makes waves

Water, water everywhere ... but that didn't stop this man from navigating his scooter through a waterlogged street after heavy rain fell in Kolkata, India, on Wednesday. The monsoon rains that usually hit India from June to September are crucial for farmers who are left with the task of feeding a massive population. BIKAS DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This one was 'wow!' survivor says after earthquake hits

Central America shaken. Roads cracked, power lines fell, shelves tumbled: 'We held onto each other, we kept falling'

People gather outside an office building in San Jose, Costa Rica, to survey damage from an earthquake that rocked a wide swath of Central America on Wednesday. JOSE PABLO PINEDA VIA INSTAGRAM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It was incredibly strong. I've felt earthquakes, but this one was 'wow!'

That was survivor Jairo Zuniga, 27, talking after a powerful, magnitude-7.6 earthquake shook Costa Rica and a wide swath of Central America on Wednesday.

Amid the panic, houses collapsed, highways were blocked and there was at least one death from a heart attack.

Zuniga said everything in his house in the beach town of Cangrejal fell when the quake hit around breakfast time.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the giant quake was centred about 60 kilometres from the town of Liberia and 140 kilometres west of Costa Rica's capital, San Jose, where frightened people ran into the streets.

The quake was deep — 41 kilometres below the surface. Quakes that occur deeper underground tend to be less damaging.

The last deadly quake to strike Costa Rica was in 2009, when 40 died.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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In this Aug. 26 photo, a Romanian bride poses with mock kidnappers holding toy weapons at the Triumph Arch in Bucharest, Romania. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bride-napping all fun and games in Romanian capital

Customs. Nuptial abductions an increasingly common sight in Balkan city

A limousine screeches to a halt and a bride, resplendent in frothy gown and veil, is hauled outside by her abductors.

It's one of Romania's more colourful customs: bride-napping. And the tradition of snatching the bride from under the nose of groom and guests with the wedding party in full swing is getting bigger, brasher and increasingly common in the Romanian capital, Bucharest, the Balkans' undisputed party town.

Every Saturday night, brides from Bucharest and beyond are dragged away in a mock abduction by friends and driven to a top tourist spot where they are "held hostage" — all the while pouting, dancing and striking provocative poses for the cameras.

Quoted

"Everything was staged and ready in my case. The limousine was waiting for me in front of the restaurant, I was given the 'leave' signal by my friends, and together we came here to have some fun.... Now everyone's thinking what ransom to ask the groom."

25-year-old abducted bride Alisar Dragne

The ransom: A few bottles of whisky or perhaps something more romantic, like a public declaration of love from the abandoned groom. The kidnappers negotiate by phone, working out the details of the payoff. It's all harmless theatrics meant to add a whiff of risqué fun to the nuptials.

Mock abductions of brides are part of marriage ceremonies across the former Soviet Union. In some countries, guests lock up a bride or have her hide in a backroom during celebrations, demanding that the bridegroom delivers a "ransom" — like singing a song, dancing or sometimes paying real money.

In Romania, the custom took off a few years ago when a top football player rented Bucharest's Arch of Triumph, a major monument modelled after its iconic namesake in Paris, and proposed there to his girlfriend. There was no kidnapping involved but the scene stuck in the popular imagination as a symbol of marriage — and soon the monument became a sort of midnight mecca for bride-napping.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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OSLT FLAP

Romanian brides pose for pictures under the Arch of Triumph in Bucharest. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Legal, schmegal

Letting off steam

This past Saturday, about 20 brides were held hostage at the Arch of Triumph, which was built in 1922 to honour Romanian soldiers who died during World War I and to celebrate the reunification of Transylvania with the rest of Romania.

One bride was driven in from her wedding in a town an hour east of Bucharest with a gaggle of guests in tow. Another grabbed the toy machine-gun of her kidnappers, dressed up as Taliban, and pretending to use it in front of the monument.

Authorities turn a blind eye to the partying under the monument, technically illegal because it's a historic landmark. Motorists cruise around the square honking, waving and cheering. The party is one way for Romanians, frustrated with austerity measures and feuding politicians, to let off steam. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Say yes to the protest?

Romanian President Traian Basescu's daughter Elena, left, is seen at her wedding in Bucharest, Romania, Sept. 1. Elena Basescu, a European Parliament member, married on Saturday as dozens of protesters gathered outside the church where the ceremony took place chanting anti-presidential slogans and demanding President Basescu's resignation. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thailand

Drug bust nets 3.3M meth pills

Police have seized 3.3 million methamphetamine tablets at a house in Bangkok in Thailand's latest massive drug haul.

The Southeast Asian country is a leading market and transit point for methamphetamine, much of it produced in neighbouring Myanmar. Thai police have made at least four multimillion-tablet hauls so far this year in their effort to curb the drug trade.

National police chief Gen. Priewpan Damapong said Wednesday that police arrested a 22-year-old man when they seized the pills at the house in Bangkok's western outskirts.

He alleged that Sophon Sawaengsuk belonged to a trafficking network from the northern province of Chiang Rai although the suspect claimed to be only the caretaker of the house where the drugs were found. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Uganda

Kony rebels hunted down by military

The Ugandan military says it has killed a rebel fighter and captured another in its campaign against Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army rebels in the Central African Republic.

Ugandan army spokesman Col. Felix Kulayigye said Wednesday that Ugandan forces killed the rebel while hunting down Dominic Ongwen, a rebel general who answers directly to the elusive rebel leader Kony. Both men are wanted by the International Criminal Court.

Kulayigye said that Ugandan forces had instructions to "capture Dominic alive or dead."

The rebel commander escaped unhurt in the raid on his camp Tuesday, he said.

The LRA continues to wreak havoc in the Central African Republic and the Congo. Last year the U.S. sent 100 special forces to help regional armies eliminate the LRA. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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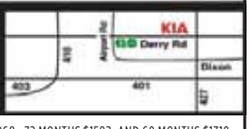

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Fireworks lie in the foreground as policemen arrive at the scene on Wednesday after a blaze swept through the Om Siva Shakti fireworks factory in Sivakasi, about 500 kilometres southwest of Chennai, India.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Massive blaze at Indian fireworks factory kills at least 40 workers

Workplace hazard. Building's licence suspended the day before because of major safety violations

A massive blaze raged for hours on Wednesday at a fireworks factory in southern India, killing at least 40 workers and injuring 60, police said.

Large amounts of firecrackers and raw materials had been stored in the Om Siva Shakti factory with major Hindu festivals weeks away.

Police officer Najmul Huda said rescue workers and firefighters initially could not get into the building as the fire raged, triggering deafening explosions of firecrackers.

Workers fled the area, but many were killed as they waited at a nearby warehouse, which also caught fire and exploded, Huda told reporters.

The Press Trust of India news agency said that about 300 people were working in the factory and 52 died.

Huda said authorities had suspended the factory's licence a day earlier after finding major safety violations. The management, however, operated the factory illegally on Wednesday, he said.

Photographs showed the factory had burned to rubble, and fireworks littered the ground.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known, police officer P. Karupaiah said.

Sivakasi town in Tamil Nadu state is India's biggest hub for the manufacture of matches and firecrackers. The town is about 500 kilometres southwest of Chennai, the state capital.

The CNN-IBN television news channel said rescue workers had completed a search of the devastated building for trapped workers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

5 hours

The fire, which spread to 40 of the factory's 60 rooms, was put out more than five hours after it began, witnesses and news reports said.

N.Y. appeals court finds red soles can be trademarked

Louboutin shoes.
Judge says lower court went too far to rule a single colour can never serve as a trademark in the fashion industry

The distinctive red soles of Christian Louboutin shoes are entitled to trademark protection, even if the company can't exactly call the colour its own, a federal appeals court said Wednesday.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan reversed a lower court judge who had ruled against the French maker of luxury shoes worn by stars such as Sarah Jessica Parker, Scarlett Johansson and Halle Berry.

Counterfeit Louboutin high heels featuring the distinctive red sole of French designer Christian Louboutin. GETTY IMAGES FILE

The appeals court said Louboutin was entitled to protect its brand against red-soled shoes made by competitor Yves Saint Laurent S.A.S., which is also based in Paris, though it instructed the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to limit registration of the trademark to situations in which the red lacquered outsole contrasts in colour with the adjoining upper part of the shoe.

In 2008, the trademark office granted protection to Louboutin, which has applied glossy vivid red to the outsoles of women's shoes since 1992.

The shoes sell for up to $1,000 a pair.

But the appeals court said it was limiting the trademark "to uses in which the red outsole contrasts with the colour of the rest of the shoe." It noted, for instance, that Yves Saint Laurent's use of a red outsole on monochromatic red shoes does not infringe on Louboutin's trademark.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four shot to death in French Alps

Gendarmes block access to a killing site near Chevaline, French Alps, Wednesday. French authorities say at least four people have been shot to death in a forest in the Alps. An official with the regional administration for the Haute-Savoie region says three of the bodies were found in a BMW registered in Britain.

ALEXIS MORO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crime

Son of U.S. federal judge arrested on murder charge

The son of a U.S. federal court judge in Puerto Rico surrendered to authorities Wednesday to face charges that include first-degree murder in the death of his wife.

Pablo Casellas Toro was arrested as he arrived at a court in the city of Bayamon with his lawyers and two bodyguards.

He is also charged with destroying evidence, making a false report and weapons violations stemming from the July 14 shooting death of his wife, Carmen Paredes Cintron, who was slain in their home in the wealthy San Juan suburb of Guaynabo.

Casellas, a 47-year-old insurance broker, did not enter a plea but has denied killing his wife, with whom he had two teenage daughters. A judge set a preliminary hearing for Sept. 18 and set bail at $4 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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User fees mean good business for Ottawa

Budget watchdog. Revenues from goods, services that feds offer public raked in $8B in 2010-11: Report

The federal government has made much about its record in cutting taxes, but a new report shows it is making out like a bandit on user fees.

Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page's report on user fees shows Ottawa raked in just over $8 billion in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

That represents only a small portion of what it gets from taxes, but it's more than double the $3.4 billion it got from user fees a decade earlier. In fact, the PBO says user fees have been increasing at around nine per cent annually since 2000.

User fees are defined as revenues derived from the sale of goods and services the government offers the public.

That can include publications, rentals of lands, buildings and vehicles, or such things as temporary-resident permits and divorce registrations.

The budget watchdog notes that this is not just an Ottawa trend. User fees are rising at the provincial and municipal levels as well, and around the world as governments seek new revenue streams. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Revenue sources

The PBO says five departments — Industry Canada, the RCMP, the Canada Revenue Agency, Natural Resources and Public Works — account for 70 per cent of total revenues from user fees.

- But user fees are rising at the provincial and municipal levels as well.
- In 2010, provinces collected about $31 billion from services to the public, four times what the feds took in, and municipalities earned roughly $18 billion.

Nokia's Lumia to battle iPhone, Android

Steve Ballmer, left, chairman and CEO of Microsoft, and Stephen Elop, CEO of Nokia, introduce Nokia's newest smartphone, the Lumia 920, equipped with Microsoft's Windows Phone 8, on Wednesday in New York. Nokia revealed that its first smartphones will run the next version of Windows, a big step for a company that has bet its future on an alliance with Microsoft. The American market is a trendsetter, but Nokia has been nearly absent from it in the last few years. MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pew survey

Mobile-app users doubt privacy

More than half of U.S. mobile-app users say they have decided not to use an app on their phone because of concerns over privacy, a study released Wednesday found. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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BoC. Interest rate stays at one per cent

The Bank of Canada is hinting it will need to keep interest rates at super-low levels for a while longer, saying stronger growth isn't in the cards for the country until next year.

As expected, the bank's policy-setting panel headed by governor Mark Carney kept the trendsetting interest rate at one per cent Wednesday morning, the same level it's held for the past two years.

And while Carney left his tightening bias unchanged — meaning the next move will likely be to raise rates — his suggestion that low interest rates are at least partly responsible for keeping Canada's economic head above water in the face of global turbulence hinted at continuing that policy.

But CIBC chief economist Avery Shenfeld said with the trend of growth at about two per cent, the economy is unlikely to make much progress in closing the output gap — the measure of when the economy is running on all cylinders. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Facebook. Zuckerberg commits to keeping shares

Facebook's stock increased nearly five per cent on Wednesday following a disclosure that its CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, won't sell stock in the company for at least a year.

Zuckerberg holds about 504 million shares and options and had been eligible to start selling them in November. The company currently has about 692 million shares eligible for sale. The concern is that if Zuckerberg floods the market with additional shares, prices would go down further.

The stock is still trading at less than half of the $38 that it went for in Facebook's May initial public offering. It gained 85 cents, or 4.8 per cent, to close at $18.58 on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Zuckerberg GETTY IMAGES FILE

Competitiveness survey. Canada's ranking slips to 14

Canada's economic competitiveness on the world stage is being pulled down by — among other things — government handling of the innovation file, says an annual report from the World Economic Forum.

Canada slipped two notches to 14th place in the forum's ranking of global economic competitiveness.

While the survey finds Canada benefits from highly efficient markets and excellent infrastructure, it is "being dragged down by a less favourable assessment of the quality of its research institutions and the government's role in promoting innovation through procurement practices." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two failures

"Too often, Canada fails to commercialize its good ideas into marketable products and services or capture the value from growth."

Daniel Muzyka, Conference Board of Canada president and CEO

China. Samsung in hot seat over alleged worker abuse

Fresh off a billion-dollar loss in a patent fight with rival smartphone maker Apple, embattled Samsung Electronics Co. now finds itself accused by a labour-rights group of mistreating workers in China and illegally using child labour.

The New York based-China Labor Watch said its investigation into workplace conditions at eight factories in China showed some employees were working more than 100 hours per month of overtime and that children were knowingly employed.

China Labor Watch also said their investigation of the six Samsung-owned plants and two suppliers showed that safety measures, such as providing workers with protective clothing, were not followed.

The group also accused Samsung of barring workers from sitting during their shifts and said it had documented instances of physical and verbal abuse.

Samsung acknowledged that poor working conditions may have arisen due to production demands and that a review was to immediately take place. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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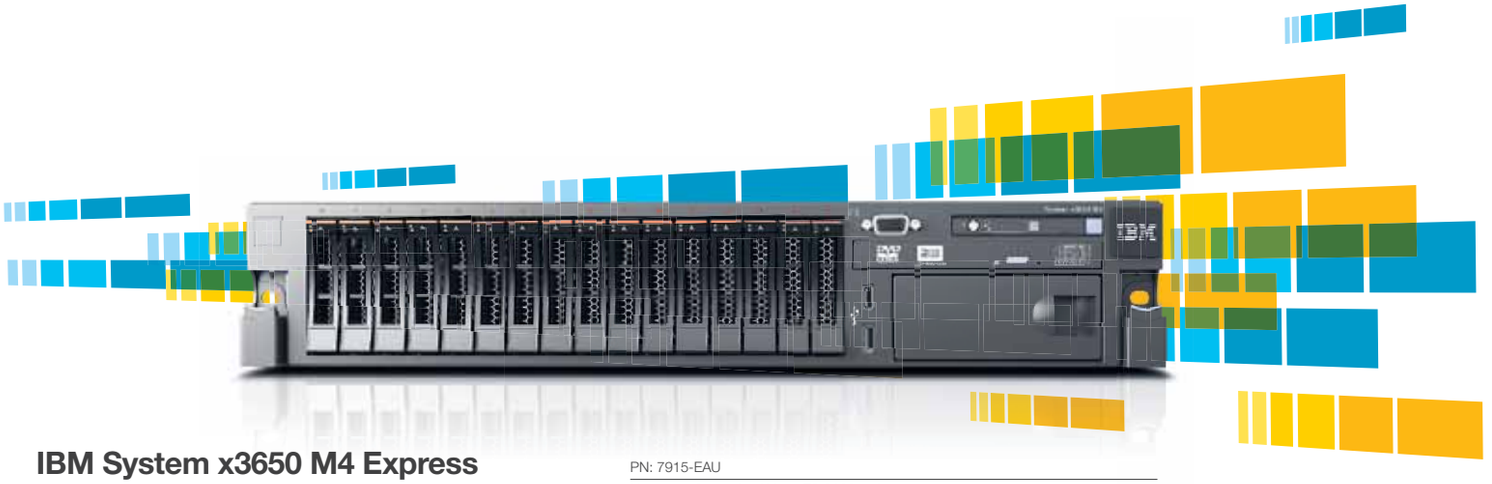

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1.TBR Report – "IBM System x® x86 servers: Meeting the demands of today's enterprises by combining value and support," January 2012. **2.** Source: Intel Performance comparison using SPECfp®_rate_base2006 benchmark. Baseline score of 267 on prior generation 2S Intel® Xeon® processor X5690 (3.46 GHz, 6 core, 12MB L3, 6.4 GT/s, 130W) based platform published at www.spec.org as of 6 Sept 2011. Estimated new score of 486 on 2S Intel® Xeon® processor E5-2690 (2.90 GHz, 8 core, 20MB L3, 8.0 GT/s, 135W) based platform is based on Intel internal measured estimates as of 6 Sept 2011 using two Intel® Xeon® processor E5-2690, Turbo Enabled, EIST Enabled, Hyper-Threading Enabled, 64 GB memory (8 x 8 GB DDR3-1600), Red Hat® Enterprise Linux Server 6.1 beta for x86_6, Intel® Compiler 12.1. **3.** x3650 M4 supports up to 768 GB of memory using 32 GB LRDIMMs in it 24 memory slots. Previous generation x3650 M3 supports up to 192 GB of memory. **4.** Ships with 4 1 Gb Ethernet ports standard and supports integrated slot-less 10 Gb Ethernet with Virtual Fabric. Previous generation server includes 2 1 Gb Ethernet slots and requires use of a PCI Express slot to support 10 Gb Ethernet. *Available later in 2012. IBM hardware products are manufactured from new parts or new and serviceable used parts. Regardless, our warranty terms apply. For a copy of applicable product warranties, visit http://www.ibm.com/servers/support/machine_warranties. IBM makes no representation or warranty regarding third-party products or services. IBM, the IBM logo, BladeCenter, System Storage and System x are registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. Other product and service names might be trademarks of IBM or other companies. For a current list of IBM trademarks, see www.ibm.com/legal/copytrade.shtml. Intel, the Intel logo, Xeon and Xeon Inside are trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and other countries. All prices and savings estimates are subject to change without notice, may vary according to configuration, are based upon IBM's estimated retail selling prices as of 03/13/12 and may not include storage, hard drive, operating system or other features. Reseller prices and savings to end users may vary. Products are subject to availability. This document was developed for offerings in Canada. IBM may not offer the products, features, or services discussed in this document in other countries. Contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner for the most current pricing in your geographic area. ©2012 IBM Corporation.

BOILING DOWN AN EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOL OF HARD YUKS

HE SAYS... John Mazerolle metronews.ca

It's a well-accepted fact that we go through 12 years of school to remember about 12 minutes of material.

Humorist Stephen Leacock pointed this out almost a century ago, and if he were alive he'd be pleased to see that not much has changed. (He'd probably also be pleased that he lived to be 140.)

For example, here's what I learned during 12 years of math:

1) Long division. I do not remember short division, if there is such a thing.

2) Some people call math maths. This is wrong, even if it's right.

3) Order of operations. This is important, because it allows you to answer skill-testing questions.

4) Though math has been around for thousands of years, educators are always discovering "new math." How it improves on old math, I'm not sure.

Our lack of retention is interesting to think about as people head back to university, and it seems particularly relevant to me because I went to comedy school for two years.

"Can they really teach comedy?" is the question I hear most often, which is fair enough. To answer the question, here is what I retained from two years of comedy school.

- Acting:
  1) Don't act. Just read the lines.
  2) No, read the lines better than that.
  3) You're terrible.
  4) My acting teacher had real, honest-to-goodness conversations with Michael Cera and Keanu Reeves. They are cool people who don't mind having their names dropped.
- Standup:
  1) People who think they're bad at standup are often good at it. People who think they are great at standup are usually terrible.
  2) The only standup comic in the world who enjoys Dane Cook is Dane Cook.
  3) Running over your allotted time is the comedy equivalent of peeing on the toilet seat.
  4) When stuck for an idea, think of anything — anything — other than genitalia. Please. For me.
- Sketch:
  1) When performing a stage show, best not to write a sketch that includes two car chases, an explosion, and the stage direction "A helicopter descends ..."
  2) Rubber chickens ARE funny. Seriously.
  3) Reading jokes from a 1940s joke book is a hilarious break between sketches, particularly if the joke contains the word "haberdashery."
- Improv:
  1) If someone says, "Welcome aboard, captain — shuttle ready for launch," the correct response is not "But this isn't a rocket ship! It's a driving exam!"
  2) When your substitute improv teacher is the Philadelphia Cream Cheese angel, you have chosen the right school.

And that's what you learn at comedy school.

I have condensed eight months of study into 444 words, so if you could send the $5,000 tuition to my address in Toronto, that would be great. With that kind of funding, I'll get that helicopter sketch off the ground in no time.

Think school is a waste of time? You're right. ISTOCK

Taking a bath just beak-ause

SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

South African wildlife

55 penguins covered in oil after spill

An African penguin is washed by staff at the South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds, after it was found covered in oil on Robben Island near Cape Town, South Africa, Wednesday.

Around 55 penguins have been found covered in oil from a spill involving the stricken Turkish bulk carrier the Seli One.

The birds are being cleaned and will be returned to the wild after recuperating. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A penguin covered in oil sits in the South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds.

Waddling away

Oil carrier gets caught in storm

As the Seli One was travelling along the coast of Dolphin Beach, South Africa, on Friday, a storm hit, which led to an oil leak.

So far, 10 cubic metres of oil have been removed. According to news reports, the Department of Environmental Affairs is conducting an aerial surveillance to determine how much oil remains offshore. Operations are expected to cease by Friday. METRO

Area affected

1 km

The oil has spread over one kilometre along the coastline, and runoff continues to pollute the surrounding area.

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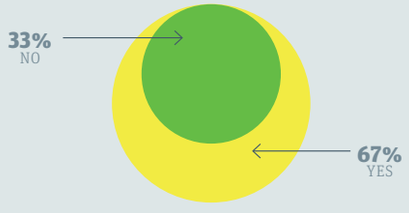

Twitter

@armchaircharlie: I bet, somewhere in the beyond, Chris Farley is doing a wicked impression. #FordCourt

@alyssaluckhurst: If I see someone with a "pronto" pass, I WILL flirt with them. Just saying. #TIFF12

@jannie_b: Driving downtown to pick up #TIFF12& #TPFF tix was big mistake. Took longer to find pkng than to stand in line & get 'em. #ttc #betterway

@gillybeans5: I'd move to Toronto buuuut the humidity does all the wrong things to my hair #toovain

@KayhanNassery: Y'all hate all you want, let's face it...the raps are toronto's only shot at playoffs, as bad as it sounds it's #truth #raptorsnation

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Top tips for landing greater salaries and pay raises

When stating your salary expectations, name a wide range. For example, "I know positions at this level usually pay between $50k and $70k, and given my level of experience, I would fall in the higher end of that range. However, this depends on numerous factors about the role. Can we discuss those?"

Define why you should be higher up in that salary range. This is where you bring up previous achievements and how they indicate the levels of success you can reach for your employer. You need to show that you bring greater value to the company than other candidates.

Think outside the paycheque. Remember you are negotiating for a total compensation package, not just your base pay. Receiving perks such as increased vacation time, flexible scheduling, or the ability to telecommute can have a bigger impact on the quality of your working life than a few extra dollars.

The biggest mistake on a resume (and how to create a masterpiece)

There are five common mistakes that people make when preparing their resumes, and most of these stem from the one Biggest Mistake. And this is what prevents you from creating the masterpiece that lands you the job.

Once upon a time (maybe) it seemed that we could just write a resume, or get a friend who's a better writer than us to write our resume. Then, having finished this masterpiece, you were armed with the perfect document to wow employers across the spectrum of roles that interested you and land your dream job.

I'm not sure if this was ever true, but it certainly isn't now. That finely-tuned resume should actually serve only as a template for the ones you eventually send out.

The biggest mistake on a resume? Using the same one over and over again. Employers can spot a generic application in a nanosecond, and they don't like it. Hiring managers want to see a document that tailors your skills and experience specifically to the job they posted, and demonstrates what you can do for them.

Five other resume mistakes (that generally stem from the Biggest Mistake):

1. Not matching your title to the job: The title of your resume should match the title of the job you are applying to. If your resume has a different title, it looks like you are applying to a different job. Don't make the hiring manager try to guess how your particular career title matches up with the position they are hiring for.

2. Only listing your job titles: Employers know what job descriptions mean. There's little mystery in what an Editor or a Customer Service Representative does. The unique part is what you accomplished in that role. What set you apart?

3. Not tailoring your work history and accomplishments: All of your jobs, community or voluntary work can potentially be relevant if you can highlight how the skills you learned and used benefit your new employer. You have to market your transferable skills to the target company's business needs. Sell your experience.

4. Listing too many jobs: It is also possible to list too many on a resume. Descriptions of irrelevant jobs that you held a decade or more ago will only serve to take up valuable space and water down the good stuff. Keep it recent.

5. Not proofreading: Employers expect you to try hard, pay attention to detail and produce quality work on the job. What does it say to an employer about a candidate who can't even present an error-free document when they are most trying to impress them in order to land the job in the first place? That you're either not that good, or that you don't care that much. Either way, you won't be getting the call for an interview.

The real "masterpiece" resume is the one that speaks to an employer as though it were written personally for them. And that's because it has been.

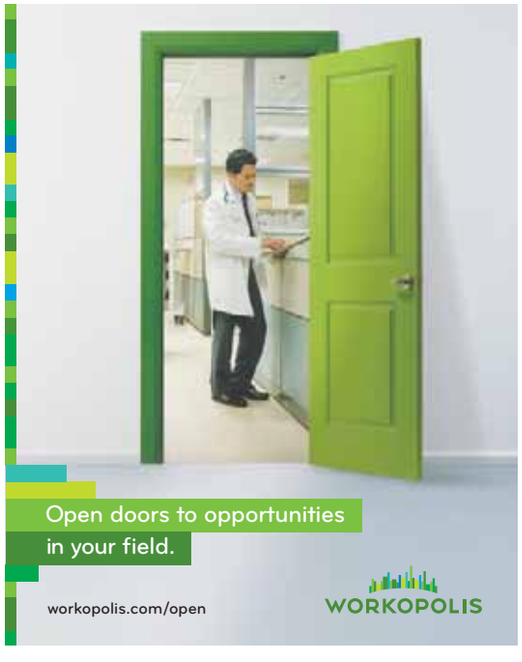
3 job interview questions that matter

You're going to be asked more than three questions in your next job interview. However, they'll all be variations on these three main questions.

1. Can you do the job? (Your skills) Be prepared to show your abilities with examples of how you've applied the required job skills in the past and what you were able to accomplish with them.

2. Will you love the job? (Your motivation) Tell the interviewer why you are passionate about this particular role at this company. They prefer to hire someone who wants to work for them specifically over someone who's just looking for a job. Show how the job fits with your interests and career path.

3. Can we tolerate working with you? (Your fit) Decisions are often made on first impressions. Demonstrate that you understand the industry and your place in it from the start. Dress the part. Look like you belong, but dress up more than usual. Keep your conversation style friendly, confident and positive. (No bad mouthing former employers.)



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Aerialist soars in Tempest-inspired Cirque production

Amaluna. Originally a dancer, Andreanne Nadeau followed her dream of joining the circus after working in restaurants and as a massage therapist

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

As a half-dozen male gymnasts launch each other six-feet in the air on a teeter board, a gymnast's version of a teeter-totter, Andreanne Nadeau watches on from the stands, waiting to rehearse her scene in the latest mind (and torso) bending Cirque du Soleil creation Amaluna.

With just two days until the show's Toronto premiere, performers and crew members are furiously finalizing their acts, sorting out last minute blocking and lighting under the 19-metre tall blue and yellow big top at the corner of Cherry and Commissioners streets in the Port Lands.

Inspired by Shakespeare's the Tempest, Amaluna is set on an island of goddesses. As such, the show's cast is almost three-quarters female. The island's queen, Prospera, creates storms to strand sailors — like the ones currently rehearsing — for the island's inhabitants. Her daughter, Miranda, falls in love with one such seaman, Romeo, much to the chagrin of Cali, a half-man, half-lizard creature who is jealous of their relationship.

An aerialist, Nadeau plays one of three Valkyries in the show, aerial fighters who are eventually summoned to vanquish Cali, while hanging from nylon straps above the stage. She's been with the show from its inception, receiving a call to join after graduating from the National Circus School of Montreal. "I was so happy and I was really surprised," she recalls noting that she enjoys the creative process. "To see how the show was built was really exciting."

Despite her recruitment, Nadeau remained nervous about the show up until its premiere in Montreal this spring.

"Aerial straps aren't my normal discipline," she admits. But that hasn't stopped her from continuing on with the show in Quebec City and now here in Hogtown. "I love touring," she says. "Changing cities is like starting all over again."

Amaluna runs until Nov. 4. Check out cirquedusoleil.com for tickets and showtimes.

Circus life

It's never too late to join the circus. Nadeau grew up dancing but always had her heart under the big top. After spending her early 20s working in restaurants and as a massage therapist, she finally decided to join the National Circus School in Montreal at the age of 25. "It was years of wanting to go, but always feeling it was too late," she says, joking that she'd turn to drinking each year when entrance exam time would roll around. Clearly it was a good choice — Nadeau was recruited for Amaluna straight out of her three-year program.

Andreanne Nadeau is one of three Valkyries in the aerial show Amaluna. COURTESY LAURENCE LABAT

On the web

A week before release of anticipated disc, Bob Dylan reopens theatre in N.Y.

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E.L. James, author of Fifty Shades of Grey. CONTRIBUTED

‘I really liked being a terrible tease’

Q&A. Metro chats with E.L. James, the woman who started it all

WILKE MARTENS
Metro World News

Writer Erika Leonard, better known as E.L. James, has become a worldwide phenomenon in only a few months. Since her erotic trilogy — Fifty Shades of Grey is the title of the first book — has become a great success, she travels all around the world. We met up with her in the fancy College Hotel in Amsterdam.

The success must be a big surprise?
Surprise? It’s a shock! I was especially surprised by the speed with which it travels the world. The contract for mass publication was signed with Random House on March 7, and the first book was already in the shops in the first week of April.

Fifty Shades started out as an online publication. Yet, it has sold 15 million copies worldwide anyhow.
The numbers are staggering. The rights have been sold to 41 countries, the film rights are sold. And all of that happened in only a short period of time. It keeps surprising me.

Everybody talks about the women who are enjoying the books. Do you have any male readers?
More and more men read my books. Sometimes they say things like: ‘Thanks a lot for what your books have done to my wife ... wow!’ A while ago, a 71-year-old man wrote me to thank me. My books made him remember what it feels like to fall in love. That was so cute.

Aren’t men embarrassed to admit they’ve read your books?
They don’t tell me they are. But I am embarrassed when men read it, because I didn’t write the books for men.

Why is it embarrassing?
Because it’s all about fantasies. When you go out with your friends and you discuss things like sex, I feel totally comfortable. But when you’re with a group of men ... I don’t like to talk about sex when there are men around.

Did you have fantasies because you were writing this story? Or did you start writing because you already had these fantasies?
Good question. I think it was a combination of the two. We’ve all dreamed of a partner who is so terribly rich that he can buy anything you want. But the kinky sex stuff really was a fantasy. Although, after doing some research it might not be just fantasies.

Is it the kinky sex stuff that made the book so popular?
Partially, I think. There is so much fiction out there with kinky sex in it. People like the sex, but they especially like the passionate love story. It was the love story that held it together for me.

Did you put in all the sex in order to avoid the cliché love story?
Not at all. I started writing with the idea: when you meet someone who is into BDSM (bondage, discipline, sadism and masochism) and you are not up for it, what will happen? I had read some things about BDSM and I thought: ‘Ooh, this is hot!’ Would I ever do such a thing? My fantasies ran wild.

All three books are true page-turners. Did you write like that on purpose?
It’s a coincidence. I started by writing a chapter with the most awful cliff-hanger. Online readers had to wait for another week for the next chapter. Many people responded to that. That was fantastic. I really liked being a terrible tease.

So, what will be next?
I would like to rewrite the first novel I ever wrote. It still needs a lot of work and I’m looking forward to that. But it’s impossible to find the time to write at this moment. Besides, I’m exhausted. I’m looking forward to my holidays.

Hollywood

So in the movie, who should play...Christian?

Christian Bale

He has proven he can be the ultimate kinky bad boy in American Psycho. And he's already got the name.

Justin Timberlake

He's brought Sexy Back before.

Alexander Skarsgard

With his intense look and towering physique, Skarsgard has a dominating presence. His interactions with Sookie in the fourth season of True Blood shows us he knows how to be a passionate lover — even though we prefer him mean, harsh and sarcastic.

Daniel Radcliffe

If the versatile actor really wanted to shed the Harry Potter stigma, he should take on this role. He's a bit young to have created his own empire, but after getting naked for the play Equus, he has what it takes.

...and Anastasia?

Katy Perry

She's got that wide-eyed look that makes her seem innocent, despite the fact she's spraying whipped cream out of her boobs.

Anna Gunn

The Breaking Bad star is way too old for the part, but the "hot mother" vibe will make her relatable to the housewives that are obsessed with this series.

Ellen Page

If you ever need an awkward female lead, call on Ellen "Juno" Page.

Mila Kunis

Want to draw in male viewers? Boyfriends will be more than willing to watch.

Kristen Stewart

Anastasia Steele is based on Bella from Twilight. And can you imagine anyone who could deliver flat dialogue with no emotion as well as Kristen Stewart?

Fifty Shades fallout

Trend. What are the long-lasting effects of the best-selling series, now that the buzz has died down?

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News

With its cheesy bedroom banter, bondage scenarios and detailed explanations of what goes where, Fifty Shades of Grey has gone from a cultural must-read to the played-out book your mother-in-law brought on vacation.

So with the hype fizzing out, what will be the long-lasting impact? For starters, according to experts, expect an era where women can be more open than ever about what they enjoy in the bedroom — often taking charge of the fantasies themselves.

Sarah Forbes, a curator with the Museum of Sex in New York, said that she's observed more women writing erotic fan fiction online (which is how Fifty Shades began, as a Twilight spinoff).

She chalked it up to the fact that women, more than men, need to be stimulated physically and mentally, so for some, writing about sexual daydreams or drawing sensual fan art can be an erotic experience. The success of Fifty Shades legitimized the form.

"For some people, it can just be fun and playful. It can border on their humorous space," Forbes says. "It lets people create a relationship with these icons of our popular culture."

Sex therapist Wendy Maltz points out that society has been "very repressed and uncomfortable" about the topic of sexuality, so fan fiction is a way to lighten the mood. That comfort can open up a discussion about their real-life likes and dislikes.

"There is a lack of healthy direct discussion about sexual issues," Maltz says.

"There is a difference between what the real needs are sexually for men in the general population and the more sensational extreme presentations that come out and are put into the mainstream pop culture and are not representative of real satisfaction to people in the long run."

Quote

"There is a lack of healthy direct discussion about sexual issues."

Wendy Maltz, sex therapist and author of The Porn Trap

Magic Mike. CONTRIBUTED

The magic of Magic Mike and Zumba

Fifty Shades wasn't this year's only sexy hit. Magic Mike, a movie about male strippers, made more than $100 million at the US box office, and Zumba classes, inspired by a sexy Colombian dance, had grannies shaking their hips suggestively.

Talli Rosenbaum, a certified sex therapist and an associate editor of the Journal of Sexual Medicine, said women are seemingly, suddenly left with once choice: embrace this stuff or be left out.

People have forgotten that there's still a large number of people who enjoy "monogamous, vanilla sex," she says. She works with traditional religious populations, and, "I find a great deal of disparity or contradictions in those populations, as well as people who are very exposed to all kinds of images on the Internet and all kinds of things that are not necessarily normative sexual education," she adds.

"They might think that this is what everybody does."

You now have "permission"

The experts we spoke to recommended defining yourself against these media, rather than being defined by them.

Dr. Stephen Snyder, a sex specialist and sex therapist, has seen women being more open to exploring their sexual sides, and says Fifty Shades of Grey has given women "permission" to explore explicit sexual fantasies. The book could even improve your relationship, with a catch: "We'd probably need the men to read it too," he says.

"There's much that men can learn from Christian Grey about what women need, such as for a man to take good care of himself and his surroundings, to express his desire for his partner in words."

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There are No Reservations but be sure to PVR Bourdain's show

Travel show. Celebrity chef talks about the evolution of his hit show that has viewers chomping at the bit

AMBER M RAY
Metro World News

Anthony Bourdain is in his last days of vacation. It's not the globetrotting-around-the-world, eating local specialties kind of trip that has gained the no-nonsense chef a cult following on his travel show No Reservations. No, this is a getaway in the Hamptons with his wife and daughter, whom, he says via cell phone, is snuggled up to dad as he answers our questions about his series' ninth and final season.

You're on the road so much for the show. Is this the first vacation you've been able to take in a while?

This is the longest vacation I've ever had. It is a normal vacation; the most time I've ever had with my family. My five-year-old girl Ariane is resting her head on my chest at this moment.

Then we'll keep this short! Did this final season feel like a victory lap, or more like just the end of a chapter, considering you'll be doing another show on CNN?
(It felt like) a victory lap in the sense that we're going out on a high note with a strong season, we're still doing our best work, and the show's still doing well. There was very much the sense with all of us who make the show that it's a chapter ending, but we're pretty much 'all right back to work.'

One of the great things about No Reservations was the way that you documented the areas you travelled to with such authenticity — it was you, exploring a region and culture, through food. And you never shied away from talking about things like war or a nation's struggles. Looking back, how were you able to get such a non-touristy show like this made and then stay on the air for so long?
You know what? I don't really know. It became clear after two years working on a show called A Cook's Tour with Food Network that they liked the show, it was doing pretty well, but they wanted a cheaper version and less foreign travel, but yet the show was very popular abroad. I think it's still running in Asia, Latin America, parts of Europe. So when we left Food Network, there was a desire to find an American network that would fund the show or finance the show intended largely for what we perceived to be for foreign audiences. And I think early on Travel didn't have a lot going on — I mean, they were known for the World Poker Tour shows and not too much else.

And yet, after every episode of No Reservations, viewers are left either wanting to travel to the location or at least learn more about it — which, it seems, is what a successful travel show should do by definition.
I was never looking to do that. I'm happy, very happy, very pleased, very satisfied, when I hear after the fact that a show we made about Vietnam or Spain inspired people to go and that they had a good experience and it changed their worldview; that makes me satisfied on a personal level, but we never set out to inform or be advocates or to enlighten. I think you tell a story, you describe an experience or you tell a tale either as a creative enterprise or as straight reportage, and you just tell that as best you can. You try not to lie to people and then you hope for the best.

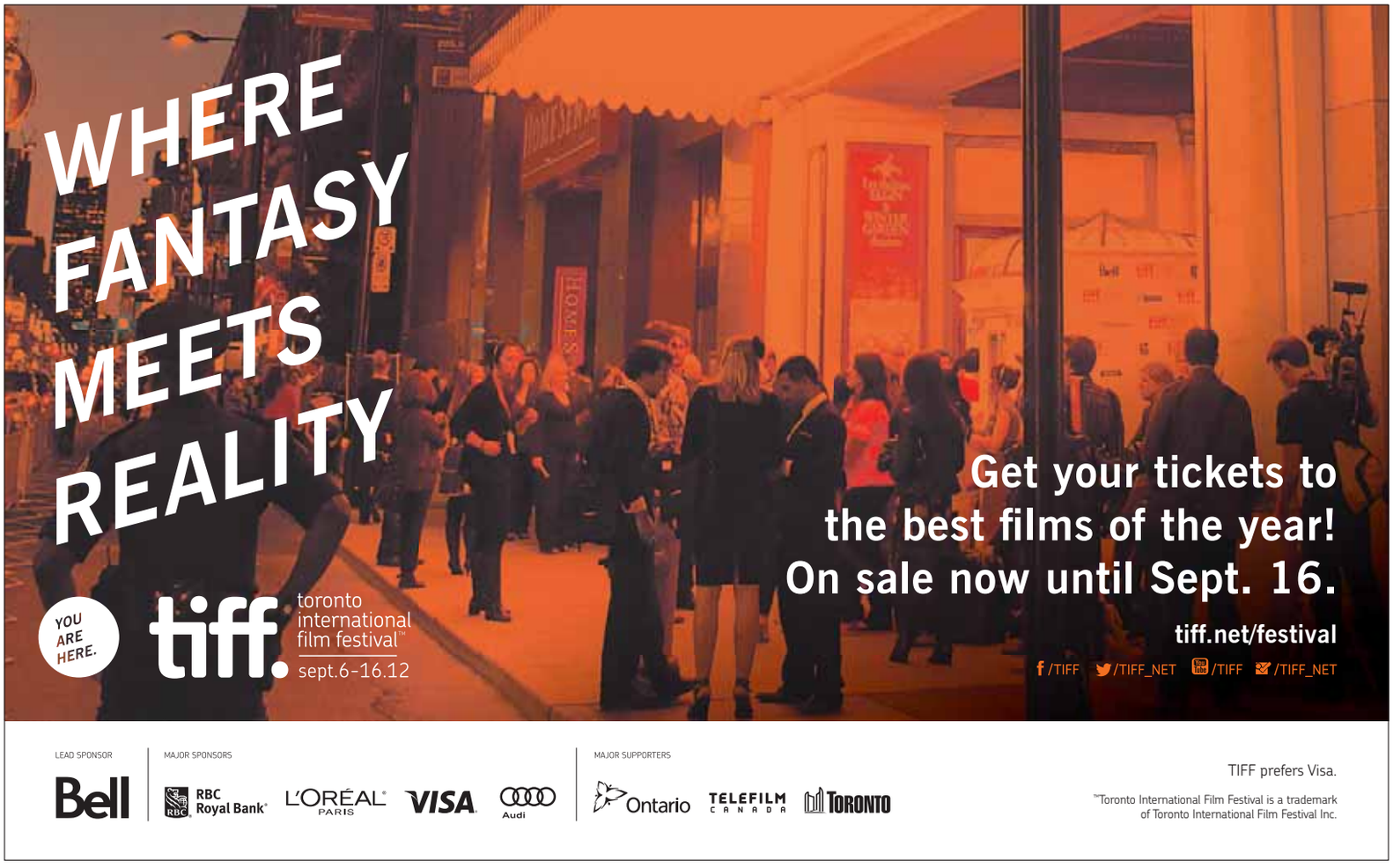
In later seasons it seemed like you delved even more into the politics and history and current events of some of the places you visited. Is that part of what kind of led to the gig at CNN?
Having talked extensively with them, I know that CNN probably saw a place for us on their network when they saw episodes like the Haiti show or the two Beirut shows — those would seem to fit pretty well with a non-fiction documentary block on a news network.

Book it

The no-nonsense chef is back for more with his show No Reservations on Travel.

- **Where to find it:** A new season of Anthony Bourdain's No Reservations premieres on Travel+Escape on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 9 p.m. ET/ 6 p.m. PT.

Anthony Bourdain. HANDOUT



Biggest Loser adds first young teens to this year's cast

Childhood obesity. Youths as young as 13 will join teams trying to shed pounds and win the $250,000 prize money

The Biggest Loser will return in January with the weight-loss show's first young teen participants and trainer Jillian Michaels back on duty.

The show's 14th season will take on a new "mission" against the national increase in childhood obesity, NBC said Tuesday. Youths between the ages of 13 and 17 will join teams trying to shed pounds and get fit.

Unlike adults competing for a $250,000 prize, the teenagers won't be subject to elimination from the show and will not be weighed for the broadcast, NBC said.

Jillian Michaels returns for season 14 of the Biggest Loser.
CARLO ALLEGRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The show's producers discussed adding teens at length and are "incredibly sensitive" to safeguarding them, Michaels said.

"It's brave, it's bold and I'm sure it's going to be controversial, and we'll do the best we can to handle it in the most positive and effective way possible," the usually tough-talking fitness expert said.

The goal is to focus on the kids' health rather than their weight, Michaels said, adding, "It's about getting them on the softball team, not into a size four."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past three decades, with about 17 per cent of children and adolescents age 2 to 19 considered obese based on height and weight measurements.

The season's 18 contestants will be divided into six-member teams, each including at least one youngster.

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Covert signing?

ARGO author at Indigo

Antonio Mendez, the former CIA operative at the heart of the TIFF-premiering film ARGO, will be signing copies of his new book at Indigo's John and Richmond location this Saturday at 4 p.m. ARGO: How the CIA and Hollywood Pulled off the Most Audacious Rescue in History, is Mendez's gripping firsthand account of the collaboration between Hollywood, American intelligence and Canadian diplomats in an effort to rescue civilians trapped in the American embassy during the 1979 Iran Hostage Crisis.

METRO

Ten films we're seeing at TIFF

Festival preview. From the arty to just plain fun, here are the movies that are standing out

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Over the course of 10 days, more than 300 films will play at the Toronto International Film Festival. With such a crowded slate, it can be tough to cut through the noise. Here's what we're most excited about at this year's fest:

THE MASTER

Paul Thomas Anderson's follow-up to There Will Be Blood comes to Toronto on a wave of positive reviews after debuting at the Venice Film Festival last week. There's already talk of Oscar nominations for the film. Anderson and his cast — including Joaquin Phoenix as a Navy vet taken in by Philip Seymour Hoffman's enigmatic cult leader who may or may not be based on Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard.

THE IMPOSSIBLE

Speaking of Oscars, J.A. Bayona's tale of one family's struggle to survive the 2004 Tsunami in Thailand is easily a best picture nominee come the new year, and star Naomi Watts stands to get a lot of attention in a surprisingly uncrowded best actress field. The film is at times devastating and uplifting, a true triumph.

RUST AND BONE

This impressive French drama that wowed at Cannes finally comes to North America, bringing outstanding performances by Marion Cotillard and Matthias Schoenaerts with it. Director Jacques Audiard (The Beat That My Heart Skipped, A Prophet) presents two wounded people stumbling toward happiness in a beautifully artful manner.

ANNA KARENINA

As we learned with Pride and Prejudice and Atonement, Keira Knightley does her best work with director Joe Wright, so we're expecting big things from Wright's ambitious retelling of Leo Tolstoy's masterpiece about a woman torn between two men (Jude Law and Aaron Taylor-Johnson). Wright has proven himself adept at both period details and dazzling visuals, and this might just be his best opportunity to show off both.

ARGO

After Gone Baby Gone and The Town, Ben Affleck solidifies his reputation as a director with his third feature, a wild true story about an ambitious CIA rescue mission in Iran during which agents posed as a Canadian film crew scouting locations for a movie. Pulling double duty, Affleck also leads an impressive cast including Bryan Cranston, John Goodman and Alan Arkin.

PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER

Stephen Chbosky adapts his bestselling young adult novel about an introvert freshman stumbling his way into high school. The film features breakout performances from its three leads: Emma Watson in her first post-Harry Potter role, Ezra Miller as a gay iconoclast and lead Logan Lerman channeling Timothy Hutton in Ordinary People. It's hip, heartfelt and moving.

CLOUD ATLAS

Based on David Mitchell's sprawling novel, Cloud Atlas has three directors (Andy and Lana Wachowski plus Tom Tykwer) and an all-star cast (Halle Berry, Tom Hanks, Hugh Grant) playing two to four characters each across numerous periods in history — including the future. We're eager to see if this project soars or collapses under the weight of its own ambition. There's no middle ground here.

LOOPER

Genre-bender Rian Johnson (Brick) does it again with a time travel tale mixing sci-fi, noir and western elements in a story about a hitman (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) going up against his future self (Bruce Willis). Emily Blunt is along for the ride as a shotgun-toting farmer, and Jeff Daniels' crime boss can win any argument with, "I'm from the future, trust me."

SEVEN PSYCHOPATHS

Martin McDonagh wowed critics — and revived Colin Farrell's career — with the darkly comic In Bruges four years ago. It's no surprise Farrell is on board for his latest, about a hapless writer caught up in the dog-napping of a gangster's Shih Tzu. With an impressive cast and a prime spot in the festival's Midnight Madness lineup, this should be a wicked good time.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Coming off the phenomenal — and growing — success of the Avengers, director Joss Whedon goes for something completely different: a black-and-white update on Shakespeare's archetypal rom-com, shot on the cheap at his home in Santa Monica. Whedon's clear love for the Bard's words makes it a total charmer. And slipping Nathan Fillion in as the comical constable Dogberry doesn't hurt.

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Joseph Gordon-Levitt stars in Looper. HANDOUT

Keira Knightley stars in Anna Karenina. HANDOUT

Will Cloud Atlas collapse under the weight of its own ambition? HANDOUT

Quoted

"Yeah, it's drawing comparisons to my father's films for sure and I think some of them are legitimate, and some of them are fairly overstated. But ultimately, I don't want to be defined by his career and to do that, that also means not avoiding things that people might see as (similar), just to not have that discussion. When I made the decision to get into film, I kind of also decided to not really worry about his career and just do whatever was interesting to me."

First-time director Brandon Cronenberg, whose Antiviral screens at TIFF, on comparison to his famous father, David Cronenberg, and his films.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TIFF by the numbers

It will take 11 days for the Toronto International Film Festival to unspool its star-studded slate of celluloid magic. While it's hard to say how many popcorn kernels will be consumed during that time, here's a look at some of the more calculable figures at this year's fest (last year's figures in brackets):

- **Total number of films.** 372 (337)
- **Number of feature films.** 289 (269)
- **Total number of short films.** 83 (68)
- **Total submissions.** 4,143 (3,461)
- **Number of countries represented.** 72 (65)
- **Number of Canadian features, including co-productions.** 32 (34)
- **Number of Canadian shorts, including co-productions.** 47 (49)
- **Length of longest film.** Japan's Penance at 4.5 hours (The Story of Film: An Odyessy at 15 hours)

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Joss Whedon: superheroes to Shakespearean comedy

Screenwriter, producer, director. After wrapping The Avengers, Whedon took on Much Ado About Nothing

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Joss Whedon admits that when he told some people about his desire to make a film version of a Shakespeare play, there was some head-scratching. "A lot of people were like, 'So why are you going to use the (original) text?'" the director and admitted Shakespeare nerd tells Metro. "Some of his plots are timeless and some of them don't make any damn sense at all."

For this rapidly produced labour of love — filmed over 12 days at the director's home just after he'd wrapped the Avengers — Whedon went with the comedy Much Ado About Nothing. He discovered quickly that it wasn't all a laughing matter.

How long have you been sitting on this one?
I've wanted to do something like this for decades — God, it's sad that I'm so old I can say that. I'd always thought this would be the one to shoot. But I never had a take on it. I never felt like I had something to say about the text. And then at some point right at the end of The Avengers that changed. It sort of opened itself to me and I went, "Oh, wait a minute. I know exactly what I have to say about this and how I would want to make this."

What was that one thing?
I gave myself up to the darkness of the piece. There's a huge amount of deception and drama, and the stakes are actually pretty dire for a lot of the characters, and at the same time there's absurdly broad comedy. Looking at it as a whole and realizing how much of it is invested in all of the characters and unlocking the motivations of even the smaller characters, it started to make sense. A lot of it was kind of unlovely — the idea of two people who are tricked into being in love, two people who are tricked into not being in love. And almost as importantly, it all takes place in one place. And in addition to always wanting to film that text, I'd always wanted to film that place, which was my house. It lent itself very well to filmmaking because it's a beautifully designed house.

Is there a sense of showing off in using your own house?
It's not this palatial place. It was designed by my wife, who's an architect, and it just has an idiosyncrasy and a flow and a grace that is very comfortable. We wanted to feel at home at the same time we wanted to feel like these guys were living the life.

Why did you decide to shoot it in black and white?
Part of it was to give it almost a '60s feel. We referred to Leonato's estate as the Kennedy Compound — everybody was drunk the entire time. Some of the decision-making in this play could only be attributed to being drunk. So we wanted to give a little of an old-fashioned feel. It also meant we could shoot after dark with artificial light and not worry about it looking different. But at the very beginning it just came from the fact that my take on it was very noir.

What are you looking forward to, taking it to Toronto?
I have not been to many festivals, nor have I spent much time in Toronto, so I'm really excited. It was sort of part of the grand plan: 'And then maybe we could go to a festival!' Toronto is the one that we targeted because it has an amazing reputation. Obviously, we're there to find a distributor and show it to an audience for the first time, but I also hope that I can just do some festival-hopping because it sounds like so much fun.

Joss Whedon GETTY IMAGES

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Ones we wish we were seeing

Left out. There are some anticipated 2012 films that won't be shown at TIFF

Life of Pi is among the films that TIFF goers won't be viewing. HANDOUT

With nearly 300 films playing at the Toronto International Film Festival, it's hard to believe there's anything else left coming out this year that's worth talking about.

But there are some very high-profile releases hitting theaters before the new year that aren't making it to the festival. Here's what we're looking forward to most for the rest of 2012.

Skyfall: While it would've been awesome to debut Sam Mendes' take on James Bond in Toronto, it probably wouldn't have been very fair to the other movies at the festival. We'll just have to wait a little bit longer to see what Daniel Craig is up against in his third outing as 007.

Les Miserables: The official word is that Oscar-winner Tom Hooper's follow-up to The King's Speech wasn't ready in time for the fall film festivals, which is a shame. Early glimpses of the all-star film adaptation of the Broadway musical look impressive, and the movie could be something of a juggernaut come awards season.

Django Unchained: Given the Toronto Film Festival's unique blend of high-brow, awards-bait films and more mass-market fare, Quentin Tarantino's blaxploitation revenge western would've been a perfect fit. Instead, we won't get to see Jamie Foxx getting payback until Christmas Day.

Life of Pi: After dazzling critics and theatre owners at Las Vegas' CinemaCon in March, Ang Lee's adaptation of the fantastical, award-winning novel — about a boy lost at sea with a hyena, zebra, orangutan, and a Bengal tiger — has been one of the most anticipated films of the year. Too bad that the New York Film Festival gets the honor of debuting it later this month.

Zero Dark Thirty: With its release date recently moved from October to December, it's not that surprising that Kathryn Bigelow's Osama Bin Laden assassination drama isn't at the festival — but it's still just as disappointing. This film has been so carefully guarded that we can't help wondering if all the secrecy is just a ploy to stoke interest in the film. If it is, it's certainly working.

NED EHRBAR/METRO WORLD NEWS

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Ever wonder where the stars lay their pretty heads when they come to town? Julian Brass checks out some of the most luxurious hotels in Toronto

JULIAN BRASS
notable.ca
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Sleeping beauties

Stars stay in style at the Ritz-Carlton. ALL PHOTOS: TAKARA SMALL/METRO

With TIFF bringing entertainment industry bigwigs from around the globe right here to Toronto, good luck finding an empty room at any of the city's recently opened world-class hotels for the duration of the festival.

The Ritz-Carlton — opened February 2011 — is a guaranteed celebrity hot spot. We had a look inside one of the suites that is sure to be occupied by some of Hollywood's biggest names (though they wouldn't mention specifics) during the festival.

Offering the ultimate in indulgence and luxury is the modern and artistically elegant Wellington Suite, which comes fully equipped with everything to suit the needs of the rich and famous.

The price tag for this experience does not come cheap, at $6,000 per night. We can dream, right?

Wellington Suite:

The 1,450 square foot suite is designed to make guests feel at home (as in, their Beverly Hills mansion) and features rich wood flooring throughout, beautiful area rugs, a spacious foyer and powder room, expansive living and dining room, a study with desk and seating area, master bedroom and, of course, an en suite luxury bathroom.

The suite features floor to ceiling windows for celebs to take in the cityscapes and — although unnecessary with our warm September — heated perimeter flooring. In case the stars need beauty sleep, the beds are elegantly dressed with handcrafted Frette Italian 400 thread count bed linen.

Making for optimal red carpet preparation, the bathroom features Portuguese Estremoz marble stone walls, spacious dual vanities (for Hollywood power couple Brad and Angie, perhaps?) with a makeup mirror and even a 22" HD TV built into the vanity mirror. The private shower features a rain shower head and hand held shower.

To unwind after a long day of screenings or a night on the town, there is a deep soaker tub with a handheld shower and bath caddy. Of course, guests can relax in the signature Plush Ritz-Carlton terry Bathrobes. We can just picture certain Hollywood fixtures in them now.

If the celebs need a break from all the TIFF hustle and bustle, they can take time out to chill in the suite and stay entertained via the 42" LCD flat panel HD TV, Bose 3.2.1 CD, DVD entertainment and surround-sound system, and high speed secured and wireless Internet.

JULIAN BRASS, FOUNDER OF NOTABLE.CA, WILL BE IN THE MIDST OFF ALL THE STAR ACTION DURING THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. BE SURE TO CHECK OUT HIS DAILY UPDATES AT METRONEWS.CA/TIFF STARTING FRIDAY MORNING.

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- **Virtual tour.** Want to see what it is like to walk through the spacious Wellington suite at the Ritz-Carlton? Visit metronews.ca/tiff for a video tour.
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- **Keep us in the loop.** Spot a celeb? Snapped a photo with your smartphone? Email it to us at tiff@metronews.ca.

Other hotels

The Hazelton Hotel
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

- **The Hazelton Hotel.** 118 Yorkville Ave.
- **Windsor Arms.** 18 Saint Thomas St.
- **Trump International Hotel and Tower.** 325 Bloor St.
- **Shangri-La Toronto.** 200 University Ave.

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Nicki rides with the Republicans?

Nicki Minaj has listeners wondering about her political affiliations after she apparently endorsed Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney in a verse on a new track by Lil Wayne.

"I'm a Republican voting for Mitt Romney. You lazy bitches is f--ing up the economy," Minaj raps, though the line comes immediately after some boasting about her wealth and lifestyle, so it's unclear if the lyric is an actual declaration or just playing with a theme. In any event, it's a bright spot in Romney's recent dealings with musicians after several artists have attacked his campaign for using their songs.

No one's judging: American Idol's empty panel

With only Mariah Carey officially signed on to be a judge, the producers of American Idol are in a frenzied search to lock down the rest of the panel, according to TMZ.

On-air auditions begin in New York in two weeks for contestants and so far the show has failed to work out a final deal with potential judges Nicki Minaj and Keith Urban. Longtime judge Randy Jackson is also reportedly out.

An insider tells TMZ that this year, they are looking to break the one male and two female format to add a second dude to the lineup. At this rate, they might have to lower their standards a bit.

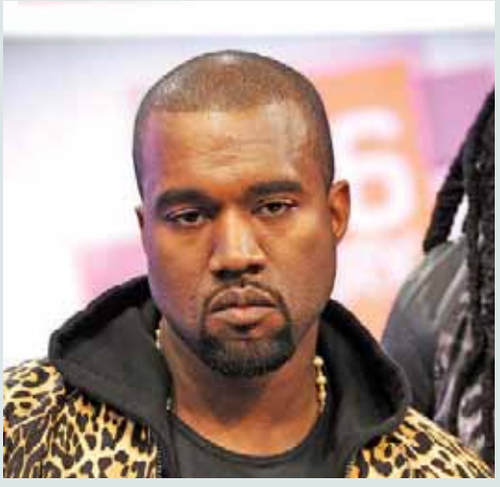
Kim Kardashian would probably be interested.

Mariah Carey

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Thanks for the honesty about Kim, Kanye!

PAT HEALY
scene@metronews.ca

We've slagged Kanye West in this column before, and we've certainly slagged Kim Kardashian here too. And when it comes to Kanye and Kim as a couple, well, we've really never said a single positive thing about them. But that is about to change.

See, the biggest gripe we had with Kim was that she was undeservedly famous, since she never exhibited any real talent, at least no talent that anybody could explain in a family-appropriate way.

She co-starred in a sex tape and then all of a sudden, she and her entire family are all reality superstars. And then the thing that got her famous, she doesn't even do anymore!

So the problem we then had with Kanye was that homeboy could do better than her. But in a new song from his Cruel Summer compilation album, Kanye is brutally honest about his mate.

"My girl a superstar, all from a home movie," he raps on the track Clique, an excerpt of which was made available by TMZ. We'd gladly quote more lyrics, but in trying to find the full song online, so many of the links on YouTube were decoys, where aspiring rappers tag their tracks as "Kanye West — Clique."

Who does that? That's not the way to get famous! Make a sextape, get a reality show, date one of the greatest rappers ever and then have him or her talk about you honestly!

Jessica Simpson. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

'I let myself indulge in everything I wanted': Jessica Simpson

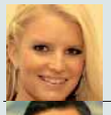
Jessica Simpson doesn't have any illusions about why she put on weight during her pregnancy, but she's learning a thing or two about how hard it is to get rid of.

"I let myself indulge in everything I wanted because it was the first time I was ever pregnant, and I wanted to enjoy it," Simpson tells USA Today.

"I didn't realize (the weight) didn't all come off with the baby." Still, Simpson says she's trying — and doesn't appreciate being judged by the standards of other famous women.

"My body is not bouncing back like a supermodel," says Simpson. "I'm just your everyday woman who is trying to feel good and be healthy for her daughter, her fiancé and herself."

Twitter



@JessicaSimpson
24 is my new treadmill show!! How have I not watched this show before now?!?! Jack Bauer is my hero!

@hitRECordJoe
Anyone know any good jokes?

@ladygaga
MAJORLY trolled by a fan tonight who lured me with a heart sign, i then ran around the entire catwalk w it, + the back actually said "HIGH"

@AlbertBrooks
Are you better off than you were 4 years ago? Physically? No way.

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COCO ROCHA

Coco Rocha — the Canadian supermodel who's worked with Versace, D&G, Lanvin and many more — has more than one million followers on Google Plus, Twitter and Instagram combined. Here, the 23-year-old tells Metro's Romina McGuinness what's behind all that sharing — and who she's excited about during all those fashion weeks.

SOCIAL MEDIA STAR

What designers are you most excited about this season?
A good friend of mine is Zac Posen so I'm always in love with his work. Then there's Jason Wu, Helmut Lang, McQueen, Balmain, Jean Paul Gaultier and Chanel."

What do you look for in an item of clothing or an outfit?
The outfit needs to be either really crazy or really couture. Unless I'm shopping for your average tee, I like one of a kind sort of things. I love vintage because each piece of clothing is unique and has its own story. I got the chance to go to Elizabeth Taylor's auction and buy one of her outfits that I wore to the Met Ball. It was the perfect statement dress. I tweeted how there was a wine stain on the dress and asked my followers to spot it. On the red carpet, people were like, show us the wine stain!

Why do you think fashion matters?
It's funny when people pretend to not care about fashion. I'm not one to say 'fashion is the future!' We're not curing cancer, but I do believe in the industry. People might say, 'don't worry about fashion, it's just clothes,' but clothes is exactly how you're portrayed. We're all about image in this world. If you want to be taken in a certain way, it's down to the way you look. As much as people would like to think fashion is nothing, it plays a huge part in how people dictate who you are.

The fashion industry is competitive, but you've maintained a sense of humour.
Most people think models are competitive, but with the girls of my calibre, the ones I grew up with, we're not like that. We're close friends, it's kind of like fashion high school. I try not to take myself too seriously. I'm not a model who thinks she's saving the world but some girls and boys look up to me so I want to be a good role model. I'd like people to think that I was a quirky little nerd in school and came to grow into myself to become something that — who knew I could?

People tend to love or hate social media. Why did you decide to make it yours?
At the beginning of my career, there was no social media. I never had the chance to speak on my behalf. You'd see a photo of me, but who was that person? If I did an interview, it was up to the interviewer to decide how I'd sound. With social media, I started a blog. I knew that if this 'blog' thing became something, I could use this platform to stand up for myself. I tried hard with Twitter but at first I was like, this thing will never catch on!

Yeah, so why do you feel the need to share personal moments with your Instagram followers?
My job is to show photos of myself but that's not always the reality. I go to work and play Coco the model but that's not Coco. I don't have those cheekbones! I really am a plain girl too. It's funny how interested people are in a models' normal life. I think a picture of me watching TV is pretty boring but apparently, it's the most fabulous thing.

What do you think about the use of Photoshop? Necessary or useless?
It's fine to remove a blemish or some fuzzies in your hair. But when you remove my arm or my waist and tell people, 'this is who she is,' you're playing with fire. Guess what? That's not how I look. It's almost telling me, the model, I still wasn't good enough. When Elle Brazil ignored my contract that stipulated no nudity and used Photoshop to remove my body suit, I felt violated. I looked pretty much topless. It's like if I went up to a woman and took her top off in front of the whole world.

You've been called the "Queen of Posing." What's in a pose other than face angles and hip jutting?
It's about confidence. Most models are the quirky, dorky girl from school put in a situation where she's supposedly beautiful and unique and with all these people counting on her and she's like, 'what am I doing?'

During fashion weeks, Coco will be filming The Face, a new supermodel reality show co-starring Naomi Campbell and Nigel Barker. Follow her: @cocorocha and at cocorocha.com.

Top 5

Coco's top five tips for becoming a social media superstar.

1 Make friends. Follow certain people related to your industry and communicate with them. In return, when they communicate with you, you'll build up your audience because their followers will be like, who is she talking to and why?

2 Give original information. I try not to re-blog or re-post other people's comments unless it was so amazing and hilarious. I give information that is mine so that it goes out to the public and then back to me.

3 Be responsible. Your workmates are going to see this, not just your friends. In the end, your bosses can see it.

4 Be visual. Make your site look beautiful. Don't just put up a photo of you hanging out in the bathroom.

5 Express yourself. On Instagram, a lot of people just take a photo and put it up. I take about 15 of the same thing until I've got the perfect photo, then play with it and see how it looks and only then do I publish it.

On the Web

New event home among fresh changes afoot for Montreal Fashion Week

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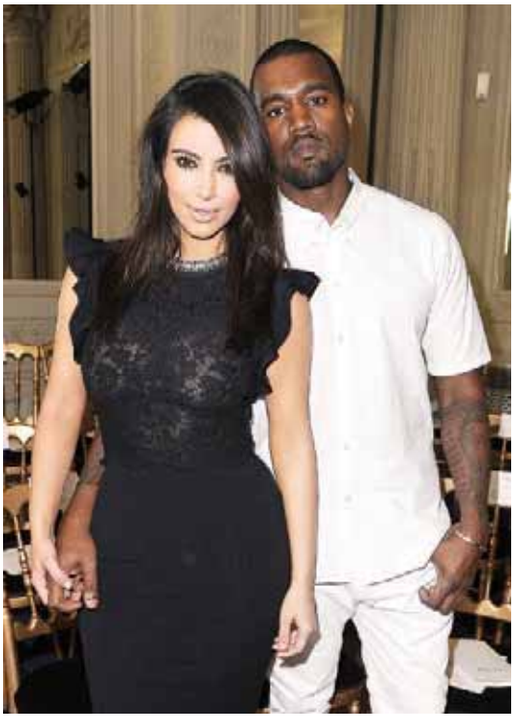
Who to watch

Preview. Big-name celebs join big-name designers to make for one bold-faced N.Y. Fashion Week

TINA CHADHA
life@metronews.ca



Kanye and Kim

For those of you who thought Kanye West wouldn't show his face again at Fashion Week after two seasons of getting trashed by the critics — you can't tell him nothing. According to reports, the hip-hop star will present his third women's wear collection in October during the Paris shows.

Even more exciting: His lady, reality-star-turned-mogul Kim Kardashian, will be by his side. Or will she walk the runway?

Show or no show, the two fashion-loving entrepreneurs are going to be perched on as many front rows as will have them.

Carine Roitfeld

Carine Roitfeld has been releasing teasers from her highly anticipated fashion glossy, CR Fashion Book, during the months leading up to Fashion Week. The former French Vogue editor-in-chief is, frankly, the only one who could pull off the launch of a print publication during this digital revolution without getting crazy lady looks from us.

The debut issue hits newsstands on Sept. 13.

Altuzarra

This is Joseph Altuzarra's moment. Championed by editors and It-girls alike, the fashion darling showed such strong collections for the past few seasons that he's become as exciting as, say, an Alexander Wang. His bold tropical prints and urban gypsy collection are the kind of shows that stick with editors way after the grueling Fashion Week cycle ends.

Wes Gordon

Wes Gordon is on fire. For the past few seasons, the 25-year-old has earned rave reviews from editors and buyers for his successful namesake label — which is already sold at Bergdorf Goodman and Kirna Zabete. The Central Saint Martins grad has dressed girl-of-the-moment Lena Dunham for the Met Gala, got a nod from Michelle Obama — the first lady wore a metallic jacket from his line at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards — and collaborated with Manolo Blahnik for his spring 2012 show.

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Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

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@Jeanne_Beker: What's the toughest decision YOU ever had to make?

@ALittleCavalier
Deciding to be a good, happy, decent person over a pursuit of absolute wealth. It was a good decision.

@Jeanne_Beker
You sound like my kind of person! Kudos...

@TrevorBoller
walked away from my first marriage? #goodquestion lol

@Jeanne_Beker
Yeah, gutsy. Been there.

@hurleyventi
Every morning when I pick out my outfit for the day..

@MeaganArtisan
I was adopted @ birth, I was given an opportunity to establish a relationship w a biological parent/siblings. I have.

@Jeanne_Beker
Bravo! I commend you for your courage... THAT must have been a tough decision!

@Nalonie_Dawn
to leave my current full time job, so I can attend a make up program and pursue a career in the makeup industry!

@SandolaCo
leaving a job I no longer had passion for without having a job to go to. But have had no regrets...love what I do now! :)

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Ottawa

Mahlet Seifu

Business intelligence consultant and handbag designer at Me.Tu

Age: 30

What she's wearing
Vero Moda sweater, H&M skirt, Me.Tu purse, BCBG shoes

Her inspiration
"I love playing with colour! Feminine girly looks and versatile purses is what my style is about. I'm really inspired by Liya Kebede. Her style is so natural and elegant at the same time."

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Fall fashion inspirations

We're going bonkers for everything baroque, bold and boho. Now's your chance to let go and experiment, because this season anything goes. Here we have key items to help inspire your fall look!

ROMINA McGUINNESS
life@metronews.ca

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$49.95
hm.com

Mulberry
Tassel lace up tiger printed suede in oak
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mulberry.com

ASOS
Pom Pom fringe clutch
$62
asos.com

Prada
Black top handle bag in 'raso ricamo' beaded satin
POA
prada.com

Alex Monroe
Fat Hen necklace
$212
alexmonroe.com

Topshop Unique
Cross Trousers
$240
topshop.com

BOLD

Joseph
Eliston stretch-crepe skinny pants
$395
net-a-porter.com

Goat
Lola library gather back shift dress in fuchsia
$651.75
my-wardrobe.com

By Malene Birger
Kittia classic touch soft green wool jumper
$344.85
my-wardrobe.com

Topshop
Blue suede stiletto
$108
topshop.com

Sophie Hulme
Stamped blue envelope bag
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sophiehulme.com

Iosselliani
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$212.85
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Delicious bites coming to a television near you

On TV

Show's 3rd season hits the road

Looking for some inspiration for your next dinner party or some advice on what not to do? Season three of W Network's Come Dine with Me Canada has you covered.

Launching with five back-to-back episodes on Sept. 10, this time around the show hits the road to travel to Edmonton and Charlottetown.

Come Dine with Me Canada follows five amateur chefs as they vie for the title of ultimate dinner party host. Each night, five strangers take turns hosting a dinner party. Then participants secretly score their host on a scale of one to 10. The host with the most points at the end of the five nights wins a $1,000 cash prize. METRO

Come Dine With Me Canada. As the show sets to return for another season, get in the mood with a contestant recipe

Beef Wellington by Sandra Latcham of Toronto

1. In food processor pulse mushrooms to rough paste. Scrape into pan and cook over a high heat, 10 mins., tossing frequently. Spread out on a plate to cool.

2. Heat frying pan and add a little olive oil. Season beef with salt and pepper; sear in hot pan 30 secs. Remove from pan and leave to cool. Once beef is cooled, spread top with Dijon mustard, top off with mushrooms and roll Parma ham over whole piece. Set aside.

3. Roll out puff pastry on floured surface to large rectangle. Cut into 4 equal pieces. Lay beef in the centre. Brush surrounding pastry with egg yolk. Fold ends over, wrap pastry around beef, cutting off any excess. Turn over, so seam is underneath, and place on baking sheet. Brush over pastry with egg and chill 15 mins to let pastry rest.

4. Heat oven to 200 C (400 F).

5. Lightly score pastry at 1 cm intervals and glaze again with beaten egg yolk. Bake 20 mins., lower oven setting to 180 C (350 F) and bake another 15 mins. Allow to rest 15 mins. before slicing and serving with accompaniments. Beef should still be pink in centre when served.

Haricots Verts, Roquefort, Black Walnuts & Crispy Prosciutto

1. Bring pot of water to boil. Add beans and blanche 2 mins. Drain and put in ice bath.

2. Pan fry prosciutto in skillet until crispy and remove.

3. Put beans back in skillet, add Roquefort cheese and walnuts and toss till warm and melted. Garnish with Prosciutto.

Ingredients

Beef Wellington (individual)
- 400 g portobello mushrooms, roughly chopped
- Sea salt and black pepper
- Olive oil, for cooking
- 750 g prime beef fillet
- 2 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 8 slices of Parma ham
- 500 g ready-made puff pastry
- Flour, to dust
- 2 egg yolks, beaten

Haricots Verts, Roquefort, Black Walnuts & Prosciutto
- 1 lb French green beans
- 4 oz Roquefort, crumbled
- 1 1/2 cups walnuts, chopped & toasted
- 4 strips prosciutto
- Salt and pepper to taste

Gratin Dauphinoise
- 5 cloves garlic
- 4 lbs russet potatoes, peeled
- Salt, pepper and nutmeg
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 4 tbsp butter cut into bits
- 2 tbsp mixed chopped fresh chives and parsley

Beef Wellington & Crispy Prosciutto with Gratin Dauphinoise

This Beef Wellington is sure to impress guests. PROPER TELEVISION

Gratin Dauphinoise

1. Heat oven to 375 F. Butter 3 L baking dish. Sprinkle about half of chopped garlic on bottom and sides of dish.

2. Use mandolin to cut potatoes in slices. Arrange layer of potato slices in prepared dish, overlapping. Season with salt, pepper, nutmeg. Pour spoons of cream over potatoes. Sprinkle with some remaining garlic. Repeat layer until potatoes and garlic used. Pour in remaining creams and dot with butter.

3. Bake until potatoes very tender and have absorbed all cream and are golden brown on top, about 1 to 1.5 hours. To help gratin develop brown crust, raise heat to 400 F for last 15 minutes.

4. Sprinkle each portion with fresh herbs. SANDRA LATCHAM

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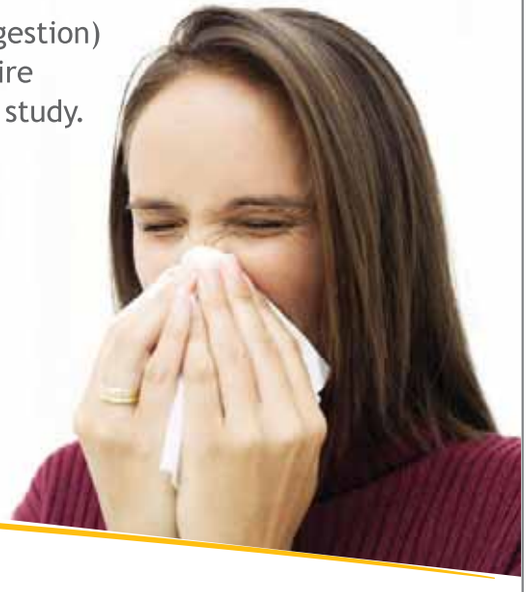

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Correction

The August 30th edition of Metro Homes listed the price of Daniels Long Valley phase 2 as starting from $145,900. The actual price was starting from $179,900.

Yorkville luxury at The Uptown

The Uptown residences in this 48-storey art-deco-inspired condominium. SUBMITTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** The Uptown Residences
- **Builder.** The Pemberton Group
- **Location.** 35 Balmuto St.
- **Website.** PembertonGroup.com
- **Sizes.** From 1,270 to 2,110 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** From $971,900 to $1,560,900

The project overview

Pemberton presents The Yorkville Signature Collection — a spacious selection of nine, elegantly-appointed, upper-level two-bedroom plus den or two-bedroom plus library suites. This 48-storey, art deco-inspired condominium is located on a quiet street in the prestigious Bloor-Yorkville area and features an elaborate glass-and-precast exterior.

Location and transit

Centrally located near Bloor and Yonge streets near the heart of Toronto's elegant Yorkville neighbourhood, the Uptown is steps away from the Yonge/Bloor subway lines. The downtown core is mere minutes away, and commuters are only a short distance from both the Don Valley Parkway and the Gardiner Expressway.

In the neighborhood

World-class shopping surrounds these central urban suites. Residents have a choice of the best that Toronto has to offer from dining, entertainment, shopping, culture and nightlife. Conveniently located across from the Manulife centre with a variety of services and amenities.

Building amenities

Featuring a state-of-the-art exercise room, a yoga/aerobics room and steam rooms. There's virtual golf, a party room and a multimedia theatre lounge. There's the superbly appointed metropolitan lounge for entertaining, with a bar and kitchen and terraced garden patio. Maintenance fees are approximately 45 cents per sq. ft.

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Rooftop Surfing

Get engaged in the Condo Act review

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta), (facebook.com/bildgta), and bildblogs.ca.

In July, the Ministry of Consumer Services announced that it would be reviewing the Condominium Act by working with condominium owners and residents, the industry and others to look at a variety of issues and possible solutions. Details of the review were released last week and it's going to be a three-phase process engaging thousands over the next year.

Some of issues that will be discussed include the growing number of investor owners and landlords, maintenance fee increases and the education of owners, property managers and boards about condo lifestyle, rights and obligations.

In Ontario, more than one million people are now living a condominium lifestyle and that number will continue to grow. Provincial policy has propelled a shift in the GTA's housing options from mainly low-density development a decade ago to high-density now.

Illustrated by the cranes in the city skyline, Toronto has the fastest growing high-rise condominium market in North America and over this past summer, there were more than 200 high-rise projects under construction.

Condominium living has become an affordable and popular housing choice in both the low-rise and high-rise market and our members have responded to the demand. When the Act was first introduced, there weren't the varied types of condominium buildings that we see today such as condominium-townhouse complexes, mixed-use condominiums including commercial or retail uses, or hotel condominiums with some floors used as short-term suites and others as permanent residences.

As the planners and builders of these communities, BILD and its affiliate, the Ontario Home Builders' Association, will be involved in the Ministry's stakeholders' roundtable representing not only the industry, but the numerous future condominium residents across the GTA and the province.

Minister Margarett Best will also be visiting six different cities across the province for public information sessions, including Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Ottawa, Toronto, Mississauga and London. That's one way you can get involved in the review.

In addition, a residents' panel is being created and 10,000 random residents will receive invitations to participate. Responses will be collected by October 5 and selected panel members will be notified by October 12. If you are a condominium resident, your board or association can still send in proposals and anyone can email comments. For more information, visit gov.on.ca/mcs.

What's hot on the condo market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1. On Lake Shore

Now open

Minto Southshore condominium towns in south Etobicoke. Head on over to 3605 Lake Shore Blvd. W., Call 416-913-2136 or visit mintosouthshore.com.

2. Don Mills

Flaire north tower

Presentation centre now open. Check it out at 6 Pabst Lane in Don Mills. Call 416-445-8868 or visit flaire-condos.com.

3. Mississauga condo

Open house

Mississauga condo, City Centre, one plus one bedrooms, one bath. Check it out at 385 Prince of Wales Dr., Sept. 8 - 9 from 2 - 4 p.m. Call 905-232-5000.

4. Kingston Road

Beaches Condo

Open house. Two bedrooms, one bath. Check it out at 716 Kingston Rd., Sept. 8 from 2 - 4 p.m. Call 416-690-2181

6 accessories to stylize your condo

We asked Metro readers what their favourite condo accessories are and came up with this list of easy and inexpensive upgrades that are both functional and add flair to your home.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

iPod dock clock radio

Wake up to your favourite tunes with an iPod dock clock radio. This trendy new accessory is very popular for condos. Here's the Revo Domino internet radio and iPod/iPhone dock with built-in speaker and alarm clock. It includes a remote control. $199.00 at Bay Bloor Radio.

Bladeless fans

These new bladeless fans are hugely popular and are great for condos. Dyson fans use air multiplier technology to draw in and amplify the surrounding air. There are no fast-spinning blades so there's no need for safety grilles as they project a stream of smooth air. The 10-inch AM01 table fan is $379.99 from Dyson Canada.

Espresso maker

Coffee aficionado Matthew Slutsky of Buzzbuzzhome.com says no condo should be without an espresso maker: "Steam driven, piston driven, pump driven; automatic, semi-automatic, super-automatic; air pressure, stove top. Yes! There is a lot to learn, but buying a great espresso maker makes a world of difference." DeLonghi 15-bar pump espresso machine. $249.99 at Sears Canada.

Maple cutting board

A traditional end-grain butcher block makes an elegant kitchen accessory that's functional and stylish at the same time. These cutting boards can be built into your kitchen island or used as a standalone. John Boos Solid Maple Cutting Board. $99.99 at Costco.ca.

Linen cabinet

With smaller condos, bathroom storage is in demand. Bedrooms are small, but the bathrooms tend to be larger, and that unused corner could be a perfect spot for a linen cabinet or shelving. Several vendors now offer a variety of extra storage options for bathrooms. This linen cabinet features three large storage areas with soft closing doors and comes in five finishes. $399 at Toronto Vanity.

Wood wine rack

Nothing sets off a room like a fully-stocked hardwood wine rack. These units come in a variety of sizes, as well as wine cabinets and wine cooler fridges. Here's a six-foot-high, individual bottle, 3-column wooden wine rack, just perfect for a condo. $304.00 from Rosedale Wine Cellars.

Buying a condo

More condo corps, more costs

I was just called by my lawyer's office to inform me what funds I need to bring in to close the transaction on my new condominium tomorrow. I had been quoted a certain amount and it was a couple of hundred dollars more than in our initial discussions. I was told that my different units (living, parking and storage) were located in different condominium corporations and there were additional costs to search these properties. Am I being fed a story or is this possible?

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

This is entirely possible. You can have a condo development where they incorporate multiple condominium corporations that have different ownerships with different identification numbers.

Your lawyer is only able to investigate title to one condo corp. at a time. Because you purchased in three different corporations, your hard costs (known as disbursements) will be triple. Unfortunately, these costs will not generally show up until after you have signed on the dotted line. Buying property can be an expensive proposition.

You can have a condo development with multiple corporations that have different ownerships with different identification numbers. ISTOCK IMAGES

Don't wait for your guests to leave

I recently had house guests. On the day of their departure (they were not leaving until midday) I found myself laundering the bed linens from my guest bedrooms and towels from my guest bathrooms while they were still at my house! Is this considered rude or inappropriate?
Thanks,
Laundry boy

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Dear Laundry Boy,
There is absolutely nothing wrong with starting your laundry while your house guests are still with you.

In this day and age when we are all busy and don't have domestic staff to do these things behind the scenes, so to speak, this is a great way to get ahead and move forward with the tasks of the day.

Now the question should be how do we do this without offending our guests yet getting our work done?

I would simply ask "would you mind doing me a favour and pulling your bed sheets after breakfast so that I can get the laundry started."

My only other advice is to not go into your guest bedrooms to take the sheets of the bed without them knowing. Try saying something to the effect of, "do you mind if I go into your room to take the sheets to start the washing?" and hopefully your guest will offer to help you!

Sometimes you need to get a head start on laundry while your house guests are still around. ISTOCK IMAGES

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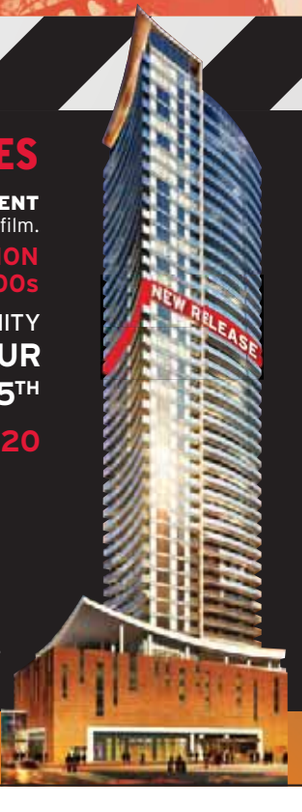

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Enter your home in style

Design Centre. A reader gets advice on how to organize and jazz up her front entrance

I have a small front entrance to my new townhouse and I'd like some ideas to make it look more attractive yet have it be functional too.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

It's that time of the year where back to school and work means backpacks, briefcases, shoes, coats and purses get dropped by the front door when we get home from a long day.

Your front entrance not only needs to be functional for your daily routine, but attractive for guests who enter your home.

From organizing to decorating, here's a few ideas to create a well organized and attractive entrance.

Be decorative

• Paint the inside of the front door a jazzy colour in gloss paint. Hang a large mirror to make a tight space feel visually larger. Lay a decorative yet durable runner for comfort and colour under foot.

Add slim furniture

• Place a narrow console table near the front door to hold flowers and mail. Add a storage bench to sit on and store shoes. Hang floating shelves to display candles and decorative objects.

Where to splurge

• A decorative light fixture is always a good investment and if you move it can always go with you. Make sure it gives off enough light to brighten the entire entrance as chandelier-style fixtures often don't put out the amount of light needed.

• If your house gets light foot traffic at the front door then splurge on an attractive hall runner rug. A durable front door mat can always help trap dirt and offer a place for shoes to rest near the front door.

• A wireless touch-light will help brighten the inside of the closet; I suggest hanging one above coat level and one below coat level to ensure you see everything on the upper shelves and shoes below.

• Quality wooden hangers and storage boxes will help attractively organize your closet into a place you want to hang your coat each night.

Paint the inside of your front door a stylish, glossy colour. Benjamin Moore's Moroccan Spice AF285
BENJAMINMOORE.CA

Red Mahogany Wood Hangers, $9/set of 4

Oversized wooden hangers are strong for all the coats in the closet. BedBathAndBeyond.ca.

Infinity Console Table, $298

A sleek 12-inch console table is the perfect size for a small foyer. HomeDepot.ca

Victorian Hotel Pendant, $1675

A splurge of quality lighting will help to create a great impression when coming home. RestorationHardware.com

Gabbeh Modern 31"x 90", $363

All wool Gabbeh style hall runner makes a colourful statement when entering the house. EcarpetGallery.com

Indoor herbs can heal what ails you

What if you could soothe a sore throat or a headache with a snip of the scissors? Well, plant some herbs indoors now, before fall sets in, and you could have a winter's worth of folk remedies.

Many medicinal plants, especially herbs, grow well indoors, says Amy Jeanroy, who runs a greenhouse business near her Ravenna, Neb., home, and writes and teaches about medicinal herbs. She recommends starting with these five: thyme, chamomile, mint, lemon balm and sage.

Each works well as a tea: Grow, cut and dry them for use throughout the year, or use fresh herbs. To brew a tea, add 1 teaspoon of dried — or 3 teaspoons of fresh — herbs to 1 cup of boiled water; steep several minutes, then remove the herbs.

"A lot of herbs that people already cook with are herbs that have medicinal qualities," says Jeanroy. "It doesn't necessarily mean it's kicking the flu for you. It helps you."

Thyme, Jeanroy says, can soothe a throat sore from coughing, and Blume touts its antiviral properties. Mint — especially peppermint — is a home remedy for an upset stomach. Lemon balm can be taken as a tea to counter headaches, added to other medicinal teas to mask an unpleasant taste, or steeped stronger to make a topical, antiseptic cleanser for a skinned knee or itchy bug bite, she says.

Take care of your indoor herb garden, and it'll return the favour.

"I don't know if it stems from surrounding myself with plants or spending so much time with them, but the whole process — you're pinching back herbs that smell good and heating the water (for tea) — I think that's part of the healing," says Jeanroy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A medicinal indoor herb garden with herbs for growing during winter months, from left, lemon balm, French thyme, and sage. JENNIFER FORKER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DIY

- Start with a small indoor garden, Mazikowski suggests, and know that the plants aren't likely to last longer than 18 months.
- Use a large, clean pot filled with sterile potting soil.
- Plants grow best if the daytime indoor temperature is between 70 and 75F (22C).
- Make sure there's a drainage hole in the pot, and don't over-water. Soggy soil can lead to mildew, mould and pest problems.

Green spaces for kids

A more natural playtime

What's a natural playground? And who builds them?
-Jodi of Toronto

QUEEN OF GREEN
Lindsay Coulter
green@metronews.ca

Research shows natural playgrounds help support children's social and physical development. ISTOCK IMAGES

Natural playgrounds bring children back to nature! Imagine a schoolyard, daycare or public park with fallen logs, tree stumps to sit on, vertical log forts and a slide built into the side of a hill.

Now what's the playground like at your kids' school or your neighbourhood community centre? Is it a concrete jungle gym or a welcoming green space?

Research shows that natural playgrounds provide more variety of play opportunities, supporting social interaction and physical development for children. They also meet a child's individual needs according to stages of development, learning styles, personality types, friendship patterns and culture.

Access to green spaces can even improve academic performance. A growing number of physicians are prescribing Vitamin "N", for nature, because time outside is known to moderate the effects of stressful events. Kids who spend more time in nature are more resilient and cope better.

Of course, no playground is risk-free. But those that are well-designed provide opportunities for children to engage in healthy risk-taking. If playgrounds are too safe, kids won't learn to assess risk.

Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds was the first company to create these types of playgrounds in Canada. Learn more at naturalplaygrounds.ca. They specialize in design and consulting and hold workshops across the country to help people customize school and community playgrounds. Their goal is to create spaces that reflect the natural heritage of a site — rolling hills, pathways, boulders and logs — where children and families are encouraged to explore.

So while traditional playgrounds restrict children to specific activities and limit creative play, natural playgrounds are able to increase attention spans in children, raise school grades, decrease absenteeism and increase collaborative play and learning. Not bad.

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The slipcover solution: Your perfect seasonal makeover

DIY ideas. They spruce up furniture and create a new look in a room. And the best part — slipcovers can be done on a budget

Slipcovers will last a few years. Then you can choose a new fabric for a whole new look again. ISTOCK IMAGES

To Slipcover or not

Before ordering your slipcovers, you need to ensure that reupholstering is the right tool for the job at hand.

• Consider how much you like the lines of the piece of furniture. If the silhouette is too modern or old-fashioned a slipcover won't fix that, but if you love the basic shape then it can be a great cost-conscious way to update it.

• Think about the use of the piece. If you have small kids or pets, the removable and washable nature of a slipcover is a wise choice.

• If there are lumps in your sofa or the chair is uncomfortable then the only way to fix it is by re-working from the inside out.

Settled on Slipcovers?

If you've determined that a slipcover is the right choice for you, there's another question to consider — standard or custom?

• Custom-made slipcovers will give you a crisper profile with individual tailoring, but you need to consider the over-all style of the room.

If it's cottage comfort or shabby chic then a slipcover that appears a bit baggy will suit the space.

However, a strongly traditional or modern space requires a tailored fit.

• Also think about the shape of your piece. If you have an unusually shaped piece of furniture it will be hard to find a pre-made slipcover that will suit it.

• Fabric will also help determine the right choice. Slipcovers come in all sorts of colours and patterns, but if you have your heart set on a particular shade or motif then you may need to custom create it.

• Lastly, determine a budget.

Custom slipcovers are significantly more expensive than pre-made versions.

Keep It In Shape

After choosing the right slipcover for your space, there are a few key maintenance tips to remember.

• Over time the slipcovers will slide, so you need to tug them into place or tuck loose fabric between cushions.

• Remove and clean them every few months, and remove to spot treat any small stains.

Slipcovers will last a few years before they need replacing — then you can choose a new fabric for a whole new look in your home!

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Paying double Land Transfer Tax is unfair.

If you're one of the five percent of people moving within the City of Toronto this year, you'll pay City Hall's Land Transfer Tax on top of the Province's, together totalling about **$15,000**, upfront, on average.

And you'll have to pay it again every time you move, unless you leave Toronto.

Forcing so few people to pay so much extra tax, for the same level of service as everyone else, is unfair.

City Hall has better options. **Let's Get This Right, Toronto.**

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for quick ways to make your voice heard and to learn how this tax can be eliminated responsibly.

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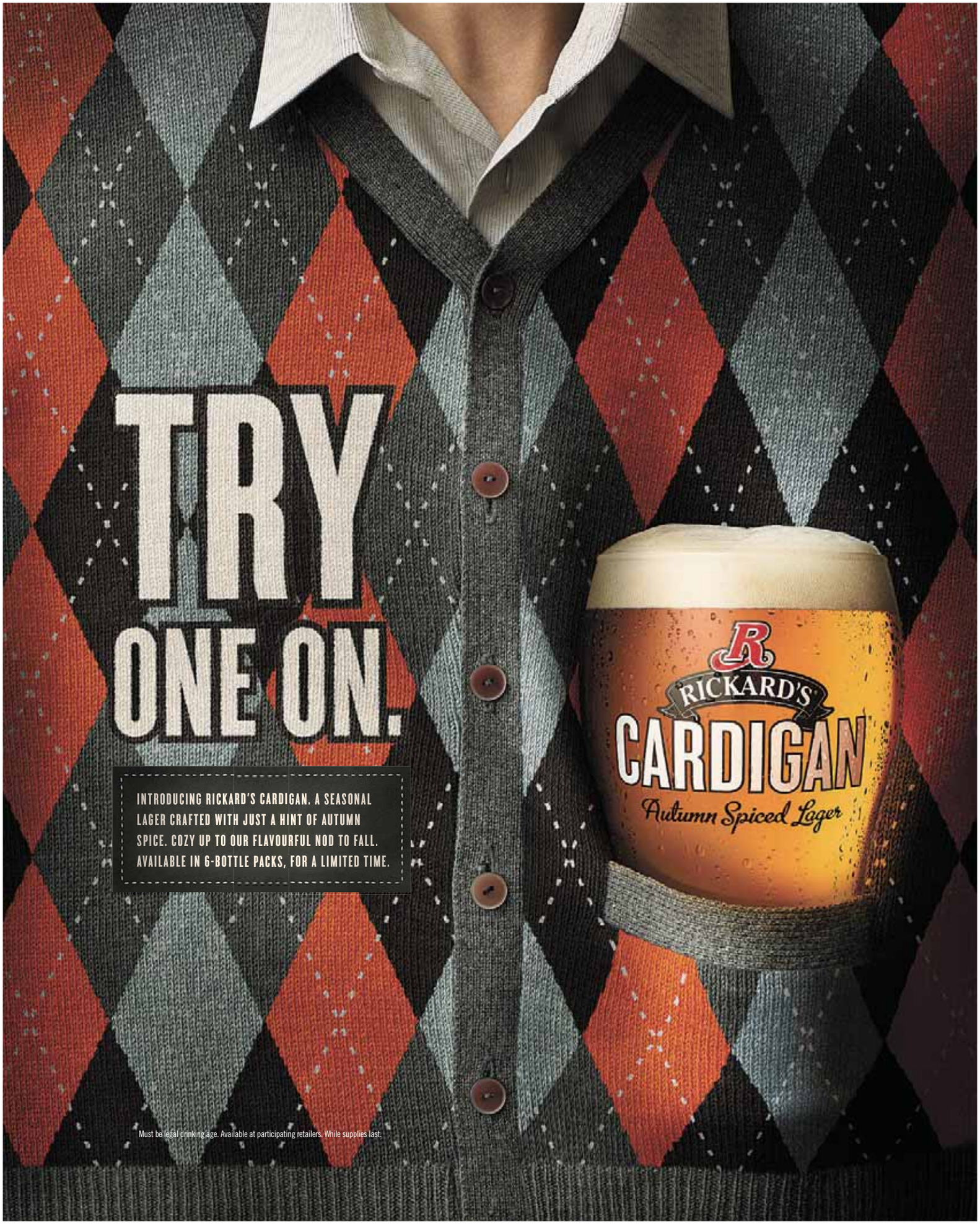
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CFL

Owens is offensive player of the week

Toronto slotback Chad Owens has been named the CFL's offensive player of the week, while teammate Ahmad Carroll took defensive honours. Owens had 176 receiving yards and one touchdown vs. Hamilton on Labour Day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chad Owens
ARGOS HANDOUT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mixed martial arts

St-Pierre, Silva super-fight 'pretty close,' says White

UFC boss Dana White says should Georges St-Pierre defeat Carlos Condit, the Canadian mixed martial arts star will likely take on middleweight champion Anderson Silva next.

"I think we're pretty close," White, speaking on the UFC on Fuel TV show, said of the proposed super-fight between the two champions.

The 31-year-old St-Pierre (22-2) has not fought this year because of a knee injury but was recently given a clean bill of health and is expected to meet Condit, the interim title-holder, later this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

"You're not trying to get autographs from them, you're trying to win a game."

Rookie QB Andrew Luck on facing pro bowlers Julius Peppers and Brian Urlacher when his Indianapolis Colts take on the Chicago Bears this Sunday.

Sharapova rallies to secure spot in final four at U.S. Open

Maria Sharapova celebrates her victory over Marion Bartoli in the U.S. Open quarter-finals in New York on Wednesday. DARRON CUMMINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennis. Third-seeded Russian 'really another player' after returning from rain delay

Maria Sharapova came from behind after a rain delay for the second straight match, advancing to the U.S. Open semifinals with a three-set victory over Marion Bartoli on Wednesday.

The four-time Grand Slam champion won 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, a day after the quarter-final started.

Sharapova had trailed 4-0 when rain halted play. After more wet weather delayed the restart, she couldn't erase the deficit in the first set but gritted out the win to improve to 12-0 in three-set matches this year.

"It's a great statistic. It shows that I enjoy the battle no matter what the score is," she said. "The third set, it's the last set out there, and there's no reason why you shouldn't put everything out there."

Once they returned to the court Wednesday, Bartoli said, "it was a totally different match."

"The first time when we start maybe Maria was a bit slower on her footwork," she said. "She wasn't serving that well. Obviously coming out again today she was really another player."

But the 11th-seeded Bartoli, in the U.S. Open quarter-finals for the first time, wasn't about to complain about her bad luck.

"I wish I had the power over the sky and say, 'No, please, don't rain,"' she joked.

In the fourth round Sunday, the third-seeded Russian was down a break in the third set to Nadia Petrova before rallying after an hour-long break. She will face top-ranked Victoria Azarenka, who finished her match Tuesday.

Sharapova broke Bartoli's serve at 4-4 in the decisive set to put herself in position to serve out the match. The Frenchwoman saved two break points and earned a game point, but Sharapova pressured her into three straight mistakes to go up 5-4.

Sharapova's 10th ace gave her match point. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I've never been so close to beating her. I really felt like I'm on the right path."

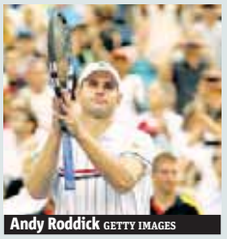
Marion Bartoli, who had never won a set against Maria Sharapova in four previous meetings before the 2012 U.S. Open.

Men's action

Roddick waves goodbye to pro tennis

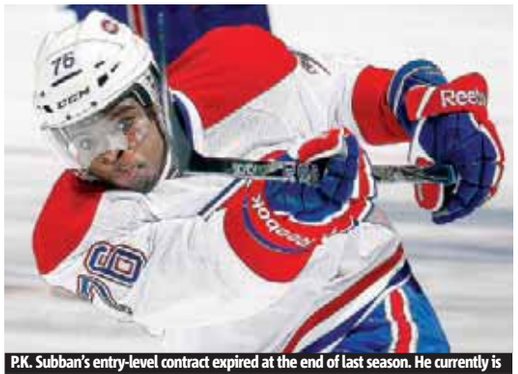
Chants of "Let's go, Andy!" rang out between points during the last service game of his career, and again before the start of what would wind up as the last return game.

A fan favourite at the U.S. Open, and the 2003 champion, Andy Roddick headed into retirement with a 6-7 (1), 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-4 loss to Juan Martin del Potro in the fourth round at Flushing Meadows on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Andy Roddick GETTY IMAGES

'You just don't want to see the fans get hurt'



P.K. Subban's entry-level contract expired at the end of last season. He currently is without a contract with a lockout looming. ABELIMAGES/GETTY IMAGES FILE

After a summer of uncertainty, P.K. Subban is more concerned about the fans than himself.

The 23-year-old defenceman remains without a contract from the Montreal Canadiens and could be one of 750 players locked out by the NHL next week, but his worries run deeper than that when he surveys the league's current labour climate.

"Obviously, it's an unfortunate situation," Subban said Wednesday. "Nobody wants to see (a lockout). I think at this point you're more concerned about the fans and making sure that the fans don't get hurt because ultimately those are the people that support us.

"I think that that's the only downer about it, is just you don't want to see the fans get hurt."

In recent weeks, commissioner Gary Bettman has said he shares the fans' desire of not wanting to see another work stoppage. He also credited the paying customers for helping the league rebound so strongly from the 2004-05 lockout.

"We recovered well last time because we have the world's greatest fans," Bettman said last month.

Subban admits that it's been a little unusual preparing for a training camp that might not open as expected on Sept. 21. However, he expressed confidence in NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr — "he's one of the smartest people in North America," said Subban — and believes there's a deal to be made. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Deadline

The NHL's collective bargaining talks remain on hold and the current agreement is set to expire on Sept. 15. If that date passes, the league will enact a lockout.

4 SPORTS

Mobile sports

Imagine if an athlete checked into a clinic to get his legs artificially lengthened, then came back to beat Usain Bolt over 200 metres on surgically improved limbs. Is such a day far off? Scan the code for the story.

CIHR
CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE
PRESENTS

Science on tap
Quench your interest

What does sleep have to do with it?

Understanding the impact of sleep disturbance on brain development in children

Thursday, September 20, 2012, 7 p.m.
The Gladstone Hotel
1214 Queen Street West, Toronto
RSVP: cafescientifique@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

This free event is hosted by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, its Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health, and NeuroDevNet.

Space is limited.

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It is estimated that 10-45% of Canadian children have sleep disorders. The problems can vary, and include things such as insomnia, daytime sleepiness, night terrors and sleepwalking. Children with neurodevelopmental disorders (such as fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, autism and cerebral palsy) are even more prone to dealing with these issues.

How does disturbed sleep have an impact on a child's brain? Documented effects include delays in cognitive development, moodiness, troubles with communication and poor academic performance. Children are often treated with medications for their daytime behaviour, but this could be causing further trouble with nighttime slumber.

Join us for a discussion about current research efforts into sleep disorders with children, and learn about strategies that can help manage these problems. Refreshments will be served.

Experts

Evelyn Constantin
MD, MSc
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
McGill University

Ana Hanlon-Dearman
MD, MSc
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Child Health
University of Manitoba

Osman Ipsiroglu
MD, PhD
Clinical Associate Professor
University of British Columbia

Shelly Weiss
MD
Clinical Associate Professor
University of British Columbia

Moderator
Anne McIlroy
Reporter, *The Globe and Mail*

CIHR IRSC
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www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca

NeuroDevNet

Canada

Kadri's turned over a new leaf before camp

NHL. Maple Leafs prospect says he's in best shape ever after boot-camp with retired NHLer Gary Roberts

Nazem Kadri at the Leafs practice facility in Toronto on Wednesday. RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

There's a certain indestructible optimism surrounding Nazem Kadri.

The 21-year-old can't-miss prospect is approaching his fourth Leafs camp later this month — collective bargaining talks willing — with a new lease on life.

He's got a new coach in Randy Carlyle; a new commitment to fitness and nutrition, thanks to Gary Roberts; and an outlook that suggests even if there is a lockout, he'll find a way to make that work for him.

"This is the best I've ever felt, so I'm excited," said Kadri. "I've been prepared the other years. With all the experience I've had behind me, I'm more prepared than I was."

Kadri had only five goals in 21 games with the Leafs last season, not the kind of production envisioned for him when GM Brian Burke chose him with the seventh overall pick in 2009. But the Leafs were a better team with him in the lineup — going 12-7-2 in games in which he played.

But he had a good year with the Marlies — 18 goals, 22 assists in 48 games.

Kadri, of course, can play with the Marlies again in the event the lights in NHL rinks remain dim. If the lockout goes for an extended period of time, guys who are playing — like Kadri will be with the Marlies — could have an advantage when the lockout finally ends.

"Very true," said Kadri. "I'd be in game shape going into camp. If things get delayed, I'm sure camp will be only a couple of days and I'll be in shape for that."

The biggest change in his life was his summer with Gary Roberts, the retired NHLer whose boot-camp approach to nutrition and fitness is widely credited with helping the likes of Steve Stamkos and Jeff Skinner take their games to the next level.

It was Roberts who set things in motion, with an April 12th tweet: "Think if @MapleLeafs @43_Kadri trained (with) me this summer Burke would let him on the big team?"

Kadri saw the tweet and gave it a go. He worked out with the likes of Stamkos, Skinner, James Neal, Wojtek Wolski.

All will go for naught if he can't impress Carlyle. Kadri had three camps under Ron Wilson, who always seemed to find something wrong with Kadri — who has electrifying skills. After his first camp — and perhaps Kadri's best camp — Wilson said Kadri was too skinny. After his second, Wilson said Kadri gave the puck away too much. During his third camp, Kadri suffered a knee injury.

But now with Carlyle, Kadri sees not just a chance at a fresh start, but feels a kindred spirit.

"He showed a lot of confidence in me," Kadri said of Carlyle. "My play suits him as a coach. Not only am I a skilled guy, I can also be a pain, a pest, which you saw a lot in the (AHL) playoffs." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"I feel a lot better than I have. I look a lot better than I have. My lower body strength is where I've improved the most. I think I'm faster, especially the first couple of steps".

Nazem Kadri is feeling optimistic about the impending season

Former F1 driver wins Paralympic gold

Alex Zanardi just loves to race. What he really likes to do is win.

The former Formula One driver took the Paralympic gold medal Wednesday in paracycling — a hand cycle powered by the arms — at the Brands Hatch race track, posting a time of 24 minutes 50.22 seconds.

The victory capped an incredible journey for the 45-year-old who almost died in a horrific accident at a 2001 CART race in Germany.

"It's an amazing feeling," a clearly exuberant Zanardi said. "I'm really, really happy for the result."

He celebrated by sliding out of his cycle and lifting it over his head with one hand and raising his other arm to the sky.

"I'm Alex Zanardi," he said with a huge grin. "I always have to come up with something. I have a little bit of a big head."

Zanardi, a former two-time CART champion, was involved in a crash in 2001 in Germany that severed his right leg at the knee and his left at the thigh some five inches above the knee. The driver's lower legs had disintegrated like those of land mine victims, said Dr. Steve Olvey, director of medical affairs for CART at the time. He had lost 70 per cent of his blood, his pelvis was fractured in five places and he had a lacerated liver.

"He's a lion," said his former teammate, Jimmy Vasser. "He just never gave up."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alex Zanardi competes on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

Medal hat trick in London for swimmer Huot

Paralympics. Montreal native highlights 5-medal day for Canada

Michelle Stilwell was a slip of the hand away from repeating as a double gold medallist at the Paralympic Games.

The wheelchair sprinter from Nanoose Bay, B.C., took silver in the T52 100 metres Wednesday after winning the 200 metres earlier in London.

"Unfortunately I don't get to hear O Canada and sing it as loud as I did the other day," Stilwell said. "I gave it everything I have and silver is nothing to be disappointed about."

Hers was one of four silver, a bronze, but no gold, by Canadian athletes on Wednesday.

Wheelchair racer Brent Lakatos of Dorval, Que., was second in the T53 800 metres for his second silver at the track.

Medal haul

Canada improved to 21 medals in total with four gold, 11 silver and six bronze.

Benoit Huot of Montreal claimed silver in the S10 400-metre freestyle to complete his set of gold, silver and bronze so far at the pool. Montreal's Aurelie Rivard also won silver in the women's 400 freestyle.

Canada's cycling team also won its first medal of the Games with Marie-Claude Molnar of Lemoyne, Que., taking bronze in the women's C4 road race.

Stilwell was the gold medallist in both the 100 and 200 metres in Beijing. She aimed for repeat performances in London. Her T52 classification is for quadriplegic racers.

Her left hand slipped on her opening stroke of the 100. Belgium's Marieke Vervoort took advantage of the mistake and held the Canadian off for gold.

Lakatos couldn't catch Richard Colman of Australia in the men's T53 800 metres.

Huot now has a swimming medal of each metal in London. Born with club feet, he races in a classification of minimal physical impairment.

Rivard, 16, was second to Elodie Lorandie of France, who won gold in 4:34.55.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Benoit Huot takes to the podium on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

NFL season kicks off

Quarterback Eli Manning, left, and the rest of the New York Giants take the field prior to playing the season-opening game against the Dallas Cowboys Wednesday in East Rutherford, N.J. For coverage of last night's game, visit metronews.ca/sports AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Jays' Romero given some extra rest

Mired in a 12-game losing streak, Blue Jays left-hander Ricky Romero is getting a little extra rest before his next start.

Manager John Farrell said Romero will skip his scheduled start Saturday at Boston and work on nine days rest Sept. 12 against Seattle. From that start, Toronto will use a six-man rotation for the rest of the season of Aaron Laffey, Romero, Brandon Morrow, Henderson Alvarez, J.A. Happ and Carlos Villanueva.

A first time All Star in 2011, Romero is winless since June 22.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

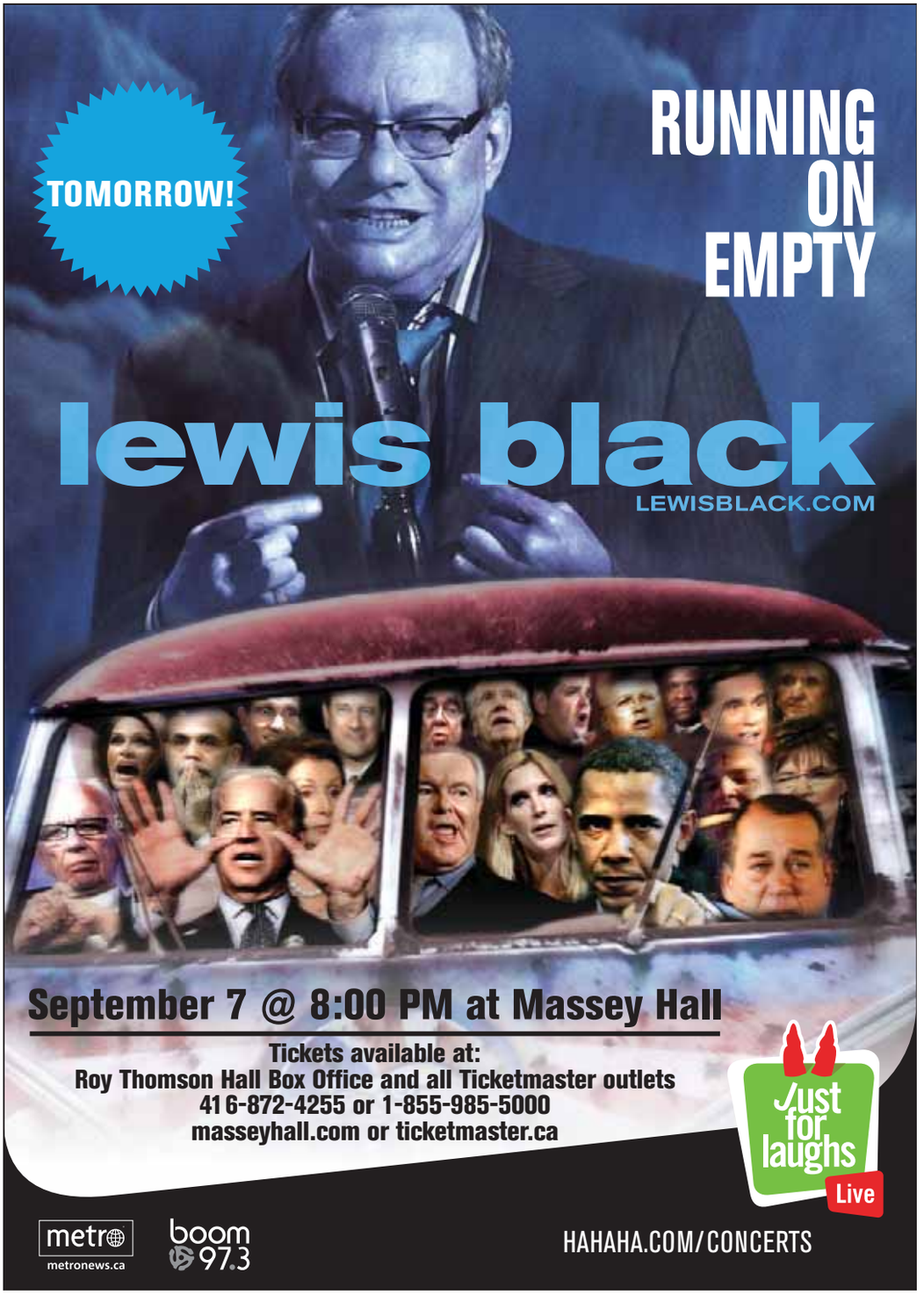
Doping ban for pitcher in Jays' farm

Another minor-league pitcher in the Toronto Blue Jays' system has been suspended for doping.

The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball announced Wednesday that right-handed pitcher Jose Brito has been suspended for 50 games without pay after testing positive for Stanozolol, an anabolic steroid. Brito is on the roster of the Dominican Summer League Blue Jays.

The ban comes a week after Jays pitching prospect Marcus Stroman was suspended 50 games after testing positive for the drug Methylhexaneamine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Other injuries

- Dutch striker Danny Koevermans, 33, who signed as a designated player on the same day as Frings in the middle of the 2011 season, is likely out until well into 2013 recovering from knee surgery.
- French striker Eric Hassli, 31, the other designated player, has battled injuries since joining the club in late July.

Hip injury sidelines Frings for rest of season

MLS. TFC head coach Paul Mariner expects the Toronto captain will be ready for the start of next season

Even in an off-week, Toronto FC cannot avoid bad news.

The club announced Wednesday that captain Torsten Frings will require arthroscopic surgery on his hip and is out for the rest of the season.

With the Reds mired in last place and just seven games remaining before the merciful end of their Major League Soccer schedule, losing the former German international midfielder for the rest of 2012 is not the biggest issue.

The larger question now becomes whether the soon-to-be 36-year-old is able to make a return to the TFC lineup or his days with the club are over.

"Yes, I expect him ready for (the) season opener," Mariner said in an email Wednesday, adding that newly signed Irish international defender Darren O'Dea will be wearing the captain's armband in Frings' absence.

The team typically reassembles in late January for training camp.

But with surgery yet to be performed and rehab to follow, it's no certainty Frings will be ready to go early in 2013. That's especially true given how difficult the first full season of MLS has been on his body.

Frings hurt his hamstring in the season opener, missing four games. He lost more time to a shoulder injury and is now on the shelf with the bad hip.

Frings, who at $2.4 million US a year is TFC's top-earner and one of three designated players on the roster, has two goals in 33 MLS matches.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Torsten Frings pauses during practice at BMO field in May. Frings will miss the remainder of the season. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Adrienne, Graeme and their brother Steven

As a guitarist, my eldest brother Graeme inspired me to learn to play; as a weightlifter, he used to show off by bench-pressing me above his head; and later, when I was bullied in school, he would pick me up in his boat of a car, looking intimidating in black clothes, covered in tattoos.

In his early 30s, he was diagnosed with kidney disease—he never showed it, he never looked or seemed sick... I was shocked when I found out that he would need a transplant.

My hope came in the form of my brother's friend since high school, Todd, who offered his own kidney to save my brother's life...

Adrienne, a grateful sister

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MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	76	59	.563	—
New York	76	59	.563	—
Tampa Bay	75	61	.551	1½
Boston	63	74	.460	14
Toronto	60	75	.444	16

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	74	62	.544	—
Detroit	72	63	.533	1½
Kansas City	61	74	.452	12½
Cleveland	58	78	.426	16
Minnesota	56	81	.409	18½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	80	55	.593	—
Oakland	76	60	.559	4½
Los Angeles	74	63	.540	7
Seattle	66	71	.482	15

Wednesday's results
Chicago White Sox 6 Minnesota 2
L.A. Angels 7 Oakland 1
Baltimore at Toronto
Cleveland at Detroit
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay
Texas at Kansas City
Boston at Seattle
Tuesday's results
Baltimore 12, Toronto 0
Boston 4, Seattle 3
Cleveland 3, Detroit 2
Kansas City 6, Texas 3
L.A. Angels 6, Oakland 1
Minnesota 18, Chicago White Sox 9
Tampa Bay 5, N.Y. Yankees 2
Thursday's games — All Times Eastern
N.Y. Yankees (Phelps 3-4) at Baltimore (Hammel 8-6), 7:05 p.m.
Texas (Feldman 6-11) at Kansas City (Hochevar 7-13), 8:10 p.m.
Friday's games
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
Texas at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.
Toronto at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.
Kansas City at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.
Detroit at L.A. Angels, 10:05 p.m.
Oakland at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	83	52	.615	—
Atlanta	76	60	.559	7½
Philadelphia	66	71	.482	18
New York	65	72	.474	19
Miami	60	76	.441	23½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	83	55	.601	—
St. Louis	74	63	.540	8½
Pittsburgh	71	64	.526	10½
Milwaukee	66	69	.489	15½
Chicago	51	84	.378	30½
Houston	42	94	.309	40

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	77	59	.566	—
Los Angeles	73	64	.533	4½
Arizona	67	70	.489	10½
San Diego	63	74	.460	14½
Colorado	56	78	.418	20

Wednesday's results
N.Y. Mets 6 St. Louis 2
Philadelphia 6 Cincinnati 2
Chicago Cubs at Washington
Houston at Pittsburgh
Colorado at Atlanta
Milwaukee at Miami
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers
Arizona at San Francisco
Tuesday's results
Arizona 8 San Francisco 6 (11 inn.)
Cincinnati 2 Philadelphia 1
Colorado 6 Atlanta 0
Milwaukee 8 Miami 4
Pittsburgh 6 Houston 2
San Diego 6 L.A. Dodgers 3 (11 inn.)
St. Louis 5 N.Y. Mets 1
Washington 11 Chicago Cubs 5
Thursday's games — All Times Eastern
Colorado (Chacin 2-4) at Atlanta (T.Hudson 13-5), 12:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Estrada 2-5) at Miami (Jo.Johnson 7-11), 12:40 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Germano 2-5) at Washington (Zimmermann 9-8), 7:05 p.m.
Friday's games
Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
Colorado at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.
Houston at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.
Milwaukee at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.
Arizona at San Diego, 10:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

AL LEADERS

	G	AB	R	H	Avg.
Trout, LAA	113	463	108	154	.333
MiCabrera, Det	134	521	88	172	.330
DavMurphy, Tex	121	365	55	117	.321
Beltre, Tex	131	511	79	162	.317
Mauer, Minn	126	467	71	148	.317
Jeter, NYY	133	566	84	179	.316
Fielder, Det	135	487	71	152	.312
Butler, KC	134	508	59	157	.309
Konerko, ChiW	119	443	55	136	.307
TorHunter, LAA	115	437	69	133	.304

NL LEADERS

	G	AB	R	H	Avg.
AMcCutchen, Pgh	130	496	92	172	.347
MeCabrera, SF	113	459	84	159	.346
Posey, SF	123	442	62	144	.326
YMolina, StL	115	426	53	138	.324
DWright, NYM	132	489	79	153	.313
CGonzalez, Col	120	474	85	148	.312
Braun, Mil	127	494	90	154	.312
Fowler, Col	123	399	69	123	.308
Holliday, StL	133	515	85	157	.305
AHill, Ariz	132	507	74	153	.302

Not including Wednesday's games

LATE TUESDAY

ORIOLES 12, BLUE JAYS 0

Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi	Toronto	ab	r	h	bi
Markks rf	5	2	3	1	RDavis lf	3	0	1	0
Ford pr-rf	0	0	0	0	Gose ph-lf	1	0	0	0
Hardy ss	5	0	2	1	Rasms cf	4	0	0	0
StTllsn ss	0	0	0	0	Encmc dh	3	0	0	0
McLoth lf-cf	4	0	1	2	Lind 1b	3	0	0	0
AdJons cf	5	2	2	0	Torreal ph	1	0	0	0
Avery lf	0	0	0	0	YEscor ss	4	0	1	0
Wieters c	4	1	1	0	KJhnsn 2b	3	0	0	0
Tegrdn ph-c	1	0	0	0	Sierra rf	3	0	1	0
C.Davis dh	4	3	3	1	Mathis c	3	0	0	0
MrRynl 1b	4	2	3	4	Hchvrr 3b	3	0	1	0
Betemt ph-1b	1	0	0	0					
Machd 3b	5	2	3	1					
Andino 2b	4	0	0	1					
Flahrty 2b	0	0	0	0					
Totals	**42**	**12**	**18**	**11**	**Totals**	**31**	**0**	**4**	**0**

Baltimore	000	031	350—12
Toronto	000	000	000—0

E—Beck (1). DP—Toronto 2. LOB—Baltimore 6, Toronto 6. 2B—Markakis 2 (28), Hardy (26), Ad.Jones (31), C.Davis (16), Machado (4), Sierra (3). HR—Mar.Reynolds (17). SF—McLouth, Andino.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Britton W,5-1	7	4	0	0	2	8
Gregg	1	0	0	0	0	1
Z.Phillips	1	0	0	0	0	1
Toronto						
Villanueva L,7-5	6 2-3	7	6	6	1	6
Loup	1-3	5	4	4	0	0
Beck	1	4	2	2	0	0
Lyon	1	2	0	0	0	0

Loup pitched to 3 batters in the 8th.
Balk—Loup.
Umpires—Home, Laz Diaz; First, Tim Welke; Second, Paul Schrieber; Third, Mike Everitt.
T—2:48. A—13,556 (49,260) at Toronto.

RED SOX 4, MARINERS 3

Boston	ab	r	h	bi	Seattle	ab	r	h	bi
Pdsdnk lf	4	0	1	0	Ackley 2b	5	1	2	0
MGomz ph	1	0	0	0	Gutirrz cf	2	1	1	1
Kalish lf	0	0	0	0	Thams rf	2	0	1	0
Pedroia 2b	4	1	2	0	Seager 3b	5	1	2	1
Ellsury cf	4	1	1	0	JMontr dh	4	0	3	1
C.Ross rf	4	1	1	3	Smoak 1b	4	0	1	0
Loney 1b	4	0	2	0	Olivo c	3	0	0	0
SItlmch c	4	0	0	0	Jaso ph-c	0	0	0	0
Lvrnwy dh	4	1	1	1	TRonsn lf	4	0	1	0
Ciriaco 3b	4	0	1	0	C.Wells rf-cf	2	0	0	0
Iglesias ss	3	0	1	0	Carp ph	1	0	0	0
Figgins cf	0	0	0	0					
Ryan ss	3	0	1	0					
LJimnz ph	1	0	0	0					
Totals	**36**	**4**	**10**	**4**	**Totals**	**36**	**3**	**12**	**3**

Boston	000	004	000 — 4
Seattle	102	000	000 — 3

E—Saltalamacchia (7). DP—Boston 2. LOB—Boston 8, Seattle 9. 2B—Loney (1), Iglesias (1). 3B—Thames (3). HR—C.Ross (20), Lavarnway (1), Gutierrez (3), Seager (16). SB—Podsednik (8), Pedroia (15), Ackley (13), C.Wells (3), Ryan (10). CS—T.Robinson (3). S—Iglesias.

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Lester W,9-11	6	9	3	3	2	4
Breslow H,3	1-3	2	0	0	0	1
Tazawa H,1	2-3	0	0	0	0	0
Padilla H,23	1	0	0	0	1	0
A.Bailey S,2-3	1	1	0	0	0	0
Seattle						
Beavan L,9-9	5 2-3	8	4	4	0	1
C.Capps	1 1-3	1	0	0	1	2
Luetge	2-3	0	0	0	0	0
Kelley	2-3	1	0	0	0	0
O.Perez	2-3	0	0	0	1	1

Umpires—Home, Tim Timmons; First, Vic Carapazza; Second, Eric Cooper; Third, Jeff Kellogg.
T—3:27. A—12,754 (47,860) at Seattle.

AUTO RACING

FORMULA ONE

ITALIAN GRAND PRIX
Site: Monza, Italy.
Schedule: Friday, practice (Speed, 8-9:30 a.m.), Saturday, practice, qualifying (Speed, 8-9:30 a.m.); Sunday, race, 8 a.m. (Speed, 7:30-10 a.m.).
Track: Autodromo Nazionale di Monza (road course, 3.6 miles).
Race distance: 190.8 miles, 53 laps.
Next race: Singapore Grand Prix, Sept. 23, Marina Bay Street Circuit, Singapore.
Online: http://www.formula1.com

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

FEDERATED AUTO PARTS 400
Site: Richmond, Va.
Schedule: Friday, practice (ESPN2, noon-3:30 p.m.), qualifying (ESPN2, 5:30-7 p.m.); Saturday, race, 7:30 p.m. (ABC, 7-11 p.m.).
Track: Richmond International Raceway (oval, 0.75 miles).
Race distance: 300 miles, 400 laps.
Next race: Geico 400, Sept. 16, Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet, Ill.
Online: http://www.nascar.com

CFL

WEEK 11

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
Montreal	9	6	3	0	263	267	12
Toronto	9	5	4	0	210	222	10
Hamilton	9	3	6	0	266	294	6
Winnipeg	9	2	7	0	176	296	4

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
B.C.	9	6	3	0	227	171	12
Edmonton	9	5	4	0	221	185	10
Calgary	9	5	4	0	248	236	10
Saskatchewan	9	4	5	0	242	182	8

Friday's game
All Times Eastern
Calgary at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Saturday's games
Hamilton at Toronto, 1 p.m.
Montreal at B.C., 4 p.m.
Sunday's game
Saskatchewan at Winnipeg, 1 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	TD	C	FG	S	Pts
Whyte, Mtl	0	27	19	5	89
McCallum, BC	0	23	2	4	87
Shaw, Edm	0	20	19	5	82
Congi, Ham	0	26	16	2	76
Palardy, Wpg	0	13	19	3	73
Paredes, Cal	0	23	16	0	71
C.Williams, Ham	11	0	0	0	66
Waters, Tor	0	9	16	2	59
Milo, Sask	0	16	11	8	57
Whitaker, Mtl	8	0	0	0	48
x-Lewis, Cal	7	2	0	0	44
Walker, Ham	7	0	0	0	42
Prefontaine, Tor	0	5	10	3	37
Dressler, Sask	6	0	0	0	36
Harris, BC	6	0	0	0	36
Sheets, Sask	6	0	0	0	36
DeAngelis, Sask	0	8	9	0	35
x-Matthews, Wpg	5	2	0	0	32
Charles, Edm	5	0	0	0	30
Cornish, Cal	5	0	0	0	30
Boyd, Tor-Edm	4	0	0	0	24
Brink, Wpg	4	0	0	0	24
Bruce, BC	4	0	0	0	24
Lavoie, Mtl	4	0	0	0	24
Mitchell, Cal	4	0	0	0	24
Owens, Tor	4	0	0	0	24
Anderson, Mtl	3	0	0	0	18
Bratton, Mtl	3	0	0	0	18
Burnett, Edm	3	0	0	0	18
S.Green, Mtl	3	0	0	0	18
Koch, Edm	3	0	0	0	18
Inman, Tor	3	0	0	0	18
O.Jones, Ham	3	0	0	0	18
Joseph, Edm	3	0	0	0	18
Lulay, BC	3	0	0	0	18

NFL

REGULAR SEASON

Wednesday's result
Dallas at N.Y. Giants
Sunday's games — All Times Eastern
Indianapolis at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Miami at Houston, 1 p.m.
New England at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Washington at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Denver, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 10
Cincinnati at Baltimore, 7 p.m.
San Diego at Oakland, 10:15 p.m.

TENNIS

U.S. OPEN

At New York
MEN
Singles — Round of 16
Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, def. Stanislas Wawrinka (18), Switzerland, 6-4, 6-1, 3-1 (retired).
Juan Martin del Potro (7), Argentina, def. Andy Roddick (20), U.S., 6-7 (1), 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-4.
Janko Tipsarevic (8), Serbia, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber (19), Germany, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-2.
Doubles — Quarter-finals
Bob and Mike Bryan (2), U.S., def. Julien Benneteau and Nicolas Mahut, France, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (4).
Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Jean-Julien Rojer (9), Netherlands, def. Christian and Ryan Harrison, U.S., 6-2, 6-3.
WOMEN
Singles — Quarter-finals
Maria Sharapova (3), Russia, def. Marion Bartoli (11), France, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Sara Errani (10), Italy, def. Roberta Vinci (20), Italy, 6-2, 6-4.
Doubles — Quarter-finals
Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka (3), Czech Republic, def. Sabine Lisicki, Germany, and Peng Shuai, China, 6-3, 6-1.
Nuria Llagostera Vives and Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez (8), Spain, def. Maria Kirilenko and Nadia Petrova (4), Russia, 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (5).
Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, and Anabel Medina Garrigues (16), Spain, def. Chuang Chia-jung, Taiwan, and Zhang Shuai, China, 6-2, 6-1.
MIXED DOUBLES
Semifinals
Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic, and Marcin Matkowski (4), Poland, def. Liezel Huber, U.S., and Max Mirnyi (1), Belarus, 7-5, 6-2.
Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, and Bruno Soares, Brazil, def. Lucie Hradecka and Frantisek Cermak (7), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.

CYCLING

SPANISH VUELTA

At Camaleno, Spain
Results Wednesday from the 17th stage of the Spanish Vuelta, a 188-kilometre ride from Santander to the mountain top finish of Fuente De near Camaleno:
1. Alberto Contador, Spain, SaxoBank, four hours, 29 minutes, 20 seconds; 2. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, 6 seconds behind.
3. Sergio Luis Henao, Colombia, Team Sky, same time; 4. Gorka Verdugo, Spain, Euskaltel-Euskadi, same time; 5. Rinaldo Nocentini, Italy, Ag2r La Mondiale, 0:19; 6. Jan Bakelants, Belgium, Radioshack-Nissan, 0:55; 7. Benat Intxausti Elorriaga, Spain, Movistar, 1:13; 8. Alexandre Geniez, France, Argos-Shimano, 1:40; 9. Paolo Tiralongo, Italy, Astana, 2:13; 10. Joaquin Rodriguez, Spain, Katusha, 2:38.
Overall Standings
(after 17 of 21 stages)
1. Alberto Contador, Spain, SaxoBank, 68 hours, 7 minutes, 54 seconds;
2. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, 1:52 behind; 3. Joaquin Rodriguez, Spain, Katusha, 2:28; 4. Christopher Froome, Britain, Team Sky, 9:40; 5. Daniel Moreno, Spain, Katusha, 11:36; 6. Robert Gesink, Netherlands, Rabobank, 12:06.
7. Laurens Ten Dam, Netherlands, Rabobank, 12:55; 8. Andrew Talansky, United States, Garmin-Sharp, 13:06; 9. Igor Anton, Spain, Euskadi-Euskaltel, 13:49; 10. Benat Intxausti Elorriaga, Spain, Movistar, 14:10.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Kansas City	27	15	7	5	34	24	50
New York	26	13	7	7	46	39	46
Chicago	26	13	8	5	35	31	44
Columbus	26	12	8	6	33	30	42
Houston	27	11	7	9	39	33	42
D.C. United	27	12	10	5	43	38	41
Montreal	29	12	14	3	43	46	39
Philadelphia	25	7	13	5	25	30	26
New England	27	6	14	7	33	38	25
Toronto	27	5	16	6	30	48	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
San Jose	27	16	6	5	56	33	53
Real Salt Lake	28	14	10	4	38	32	46
Seattle	26	12	6	8	41	27	44
Los Angeles	28	13	11	4	48	40	43
Vancouver	28	10	11	7	29	37	37
Dallas	29	8	12	9	34	38	33
Chivas USA	25	7	11	7	20	39	28
Portland	26	7	13	6	27	43	27
Colorado	27	8	17	2	33	41	26

Wednesday's results
Columbus at New England
Portland at Colorado
Thursday's games — All Times Eastern
Real Salt Lake at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday's game
Chivas USA at Seattle, 4 p.m.

NASL

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
x-San Antonio	24	12	5	7	42	21	43
Tampa Bay	24	11	7	6	32	29	39
Puerto Rico	24	10	8	6	28	24	36
Carolina	23	9	7	7	39	41	34
Fort Lauderdale	25	9	9	7	38	42	34
Minnesota	24	7	8	9	28	29	30
Atlanta	24	5	12	7	29	43	22
Edmonton	24	5	12	7	21	28	22

x — clinched playoff berth.
Saturday's games — All Times Eastern
San Antonio at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Puerto Rico at Fort Lauderdale, 7:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

FIFA WOMEN'S UNDER-20 WORLD CUP

Saturday's games — All Times Eastern
At Tokyo
Third Place
Japan vs. Nigeria, 2:30 a.m.
Championship
Germany vs. U.S., 6:20 a.m.

GOLF

RYDER CUP

Rosters for the 2012 Ryder Cup to be played Sept. 28-30 at the Medinah (Ill.) Country Club (c-denotes captain's pick):
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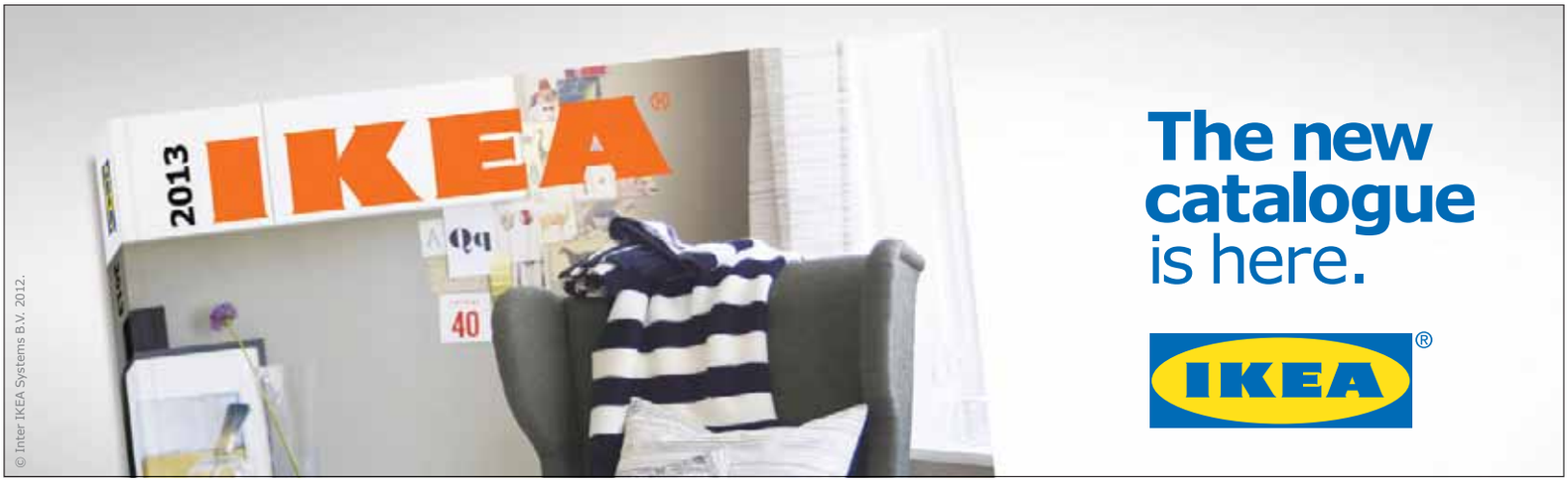
EUROPE
Captain: Jose Maria Olazabal
c-Nicolas Colsaerts, Belgium; Luke Donald, England, Sergio Garcia, Spain; Peter Hanson, Sweden; Martin Kaymer, Germany; Paul Lawrie, Scotland; Graeme McDowell, Northern Ireland; Rory McIlroy, Northern Ireland; Francesco Molinari, Italy; c-Ian Poulter, England; Justin Rose, South Africa; Lee Westwood, England.



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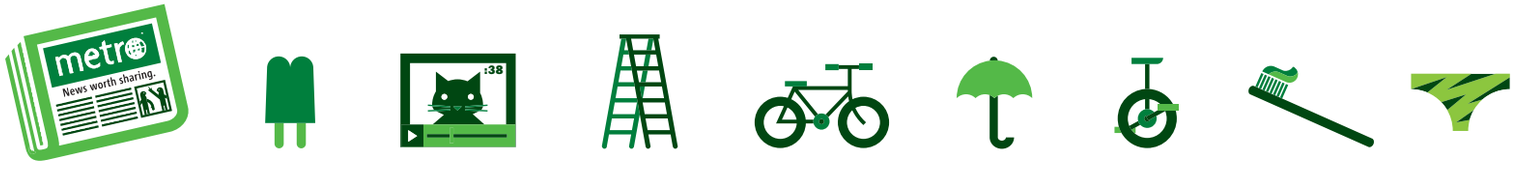


easy hard

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
It seems you can do no wrong where affairs of the heart are concerned. You are affectionate in the extreme at the moment, but you must be selective. Try not to fall madly in love with everyone!

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Moderation is a must because if you go too far you will find it hard to stop. By all means have fun but be wary of people who try to persuade you to go places and do things that invite trouble.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
People you meet while traveling or socializing will be fun and there is even a chance of romance. You are advised though not to take new relationships too seriously. They are unlikely to stand the test of time.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You need cheering up a bit and if spending money does it for you then go right ahead. There are worse things in life than splashing out on the occasional luxury, and no one can say you don't deserve it.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Venus in your sign over the next few weeks will make you more laid back than usual but there is a danger that you could be a bit too casual in your ways. Also, keep personal feelings out of business matters.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
By all means, help others in need but first make sure that they are genuine and deserving cases. Sadly, some people will feign all sorts of misfortune just to get a few extra bucks. Don't fall for it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will go out of your way to avoid confrontation today, which is good, but don't give so much that others come to expect it of you. Yes, it is possible to be too nice.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Try not to be suspicious if someone in a position of authority suddenly seems to think you are the best thing since sliced bread. It's possible they are after something but more likely they genuinely appreciate you.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This should be a productive day for you but don't try too hard or you might strain something. Good things will come your way whether or not you make much of an effort, so sit back and let it happen.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you need to discuss matters related to your wealth, such as investments or property, this is as good a day as any. Know what you want but be prepared to compromise too. Everyone can be a winner.

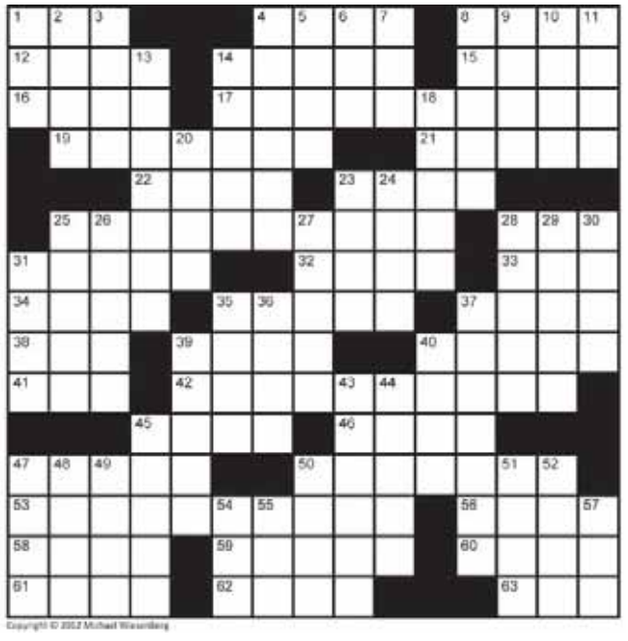
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Venus moves into your opposite sign of Leo today, making you more open and affectionate than usual. Any relationship problems you've been having can easily be resolved. All it requires is a bit of give and take.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Wishful thinking may be fun but it does not pay the bills. Two things are needed now: a clear goal and a realistic idea of how you are going to get from where you are to where you want to be.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: A PM, Distance, and Two Flora

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. Big ___: large truck
4. Drink in one gulp
8. Apple attachment
12. "___ I care" (2 wds.)
14. Scarlett ___
15. Skin opening
16. Lima's land
17. 21st PM (2003-2006) (2 wds.)
19. Author of a mournful poem lamenting the dead
21. Vancouver CFL Team
22. Boor
23. Ship's jail
25. Trans-Canada Highway distances
28. "I ___ You, Babe": Sonny and Cher hit
31. Hereditary units
32. Chair or bench
33. "Mais, ___!"
34. Praise
35. Pick ___: draw from the deck (magician's instruction) (2 wds)
37. Either point of a crescent moon
38. Corn, form, or cycle prefix
39. At some distance
40. Hudson's Bay Company's early stock
41. Ancient Egyptian boy king
42. Prominent Prairie Provinces feature
45. Long, long time
46. "___ That a Shame"
47. "I Can't ___ Satisfaction": Rolling Stones (2 wds.)
50. Neither animal nor vegetable
53. BC's wooded tropical region (2 wds.)
56. Grandson of Adam who reputedly lived to 905
58. ___ of Man or Capri
59. Leonard ___: *Star Trek* Spock portrayer
60. Comedy sketch
61. Head: Fr.
62. Black
63. Donkey

Down
1. Eminem's forte
2. "Understood!" (2 wds.)
3. Young female
4. Pure and virtuous
5. High: Fr.
6. http://www.metronews.ca, e.g.
7. Attractive leg, slangily
8. Bit of mistletoe or holly
9. Dorothy's dog
10. ___ go bragh
11. ___ room: loo
13. Gassed up
14. Drug from poppies
18. Like top-name celebrities (2 wds.)
20. Sticky substances
23. Uncle Remus character ___ Rabbit
24. Peruse
25. Canadian star Reeves
26. Yukon natives
27. Bygone Russian despots
28. Elliott of *Ocean's 11, 12, 13*
29. Boots from office
30. Restaurant table leavings
31. Surfeit
35. Bushy hairdo
36. *The Godfather* actor James
37. Shopping ___: malls
39. ___ Aquarius, Innocence, or Reason (2 wds.)
40. Window unit
43. Printemps, par exemple
44. Covered with tiny cloth fibers
45. Year: Fr.
47. Canadian Liberal
48. Let up on
49. Full ___: at top speed
50. Short note
51. Ottawa-born singer-composer Paul
52. ___ & *Clark*: American television series based on the Superman comic books
54. Single
55. Adam's ___: Eve's "source"
57. Yonge in Toronto and Main in Winnipeg: abbr.

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

	3	9		4		1		
2								7
6		5		8				
9		2	4			6		
	8						1	
		6			7	8		2
				6		3		1
5								8
		4		9		5	7	

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	5	3	9	6	8	2	7
3	7	6	2	1	8	5	9	4
9	8	2	7	5	4	6	3	1
1	6	3	5	4	7	2	8	9
8	9	4	1	2	3	7	5	6
5	2	7	8	6	9	4	1	3
6	5	8	9	7	1	3	4	2
2	4	9	6	3	5	1	7	8
7	3	1	4	8	2	9	6	5

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